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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 33 - January 2009

STUCCO'D STUG

Pete Usher gets stuck straight into Dragon's brand new Sturmhaubitze 42 Ausf. G

PALM SIZED PATTON

The Editor converts Revell's 1:72 M48A2G into a Vietnam era Jungle Buster

TRACKED TUGBOAT PART 2

José Brito concludes his build of the Bronco LWS

AN UNLUCKY CRUISER

Full size reference on the British A13 Cruiser tank

PREVIEWS: 1:35 S-BOAT ■ DRAGON T-34/76 ■ MIGHTY ANTAR ■ AND MORE...

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FREE INSIDE

TANKFEST 2008 *pt.2* - We conclude our two part special on The Tank Museum's annual Tankfest spectacular.

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LATIN LIGHT TANKS

Renowned military-vehicle dealer Mike Stallwood, has pulled off an incredible coup and imported 16 WW2-vintage M3 Stuarts tanks from Brazil.

You would think that, 63 years after the end of the conflict, the chances of discovering a large cache of WW2 military vehicles - let alone tanks - in reasonably good condition would be virtually zero. But that is exactly what Mike Stallwood of RR Motor Services has done. Almost single-handedly he has extracted 16 M3 Stuart light tanks from the wilds of Brazil, and brought them to the UK.

These tanks formed part of a consignment gifted to Brazil by the US Army between 1942 and 1945, once they became surplus to Brazilian government receiving some were sold to a Brazilian businessman who had stored them on a remote ranch some 125 miles (200km) north of São Paul.

On the spot, Mike committed to purchasing every tank that was still available and in all: five M3s with nine-cylinder radial Guiberson diesel engines and 11 M3A1s with seven-cylinder Continental radial engines plus 60 tons of associated spares were packed into 10 containers. The containers finally arrived at RR Motor Services on the 17th of October 2008 from where some are destined for museums and private collections.
www.rrservices.co.uk

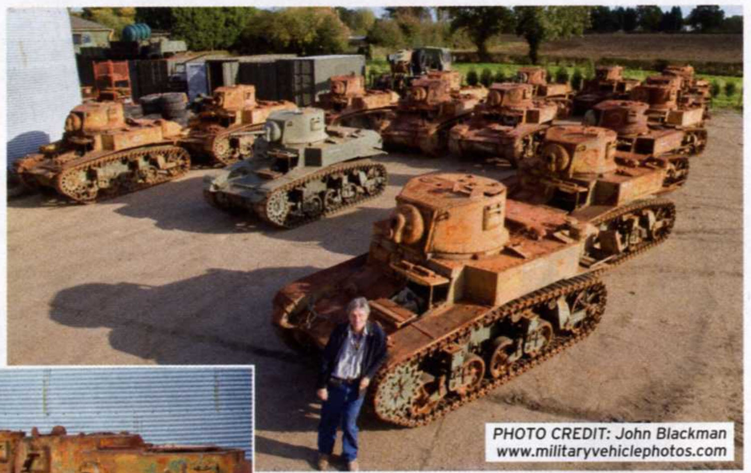
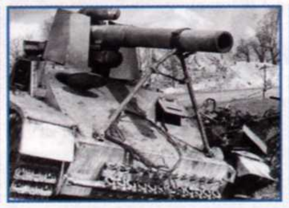
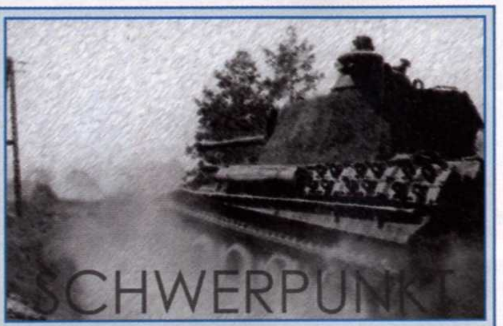


PHOTO CREDIT: John Blackman
www.militaryvehiclephotos.com

OSTFRONT WRECKS

The book is a slight departure from the usual content as it is on an Ostfront theme; hence its title, Panzerwrecks 7: Ostfront. The vast majority of the images presented have not been seen in print before, including What distinguished a Turán I from a Turán II? What happened when a 'Hummel' lost an artillery duel? Which Panzers were given to the Bulgarians by the Russians? Where did some of the first Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.J's appear? Why was Kurland important to Berlin? What distinguished an IR capable Panther? The answers to these and other questions are to be found here in Panzerwrecks 7. With 120 rare and unpublished large format photographs sourced from Russia and Eastern Europe. Priced at £16.99/$29.95 this latest addition will be available anytime now, and will certainly make the perfect gift for Christmas! Available direct from *www.panzerwrecks.com*





WELCOME TO SCHWERPUNKT!

Sam Dwyer has dropped us a line to let us know that he and a group, of armour modellers living in Australia have launched a new website dedicated to WW2 Axis armour research and modelling. Some very well know modellers are involved in this project, such as James Blackwell, Jon Bailey, Anthony Sheedy and ex pat Don Campbell. So if you have an interest in Axis armour why not drop in, say hi and get involved.

www.schwerpunkt.com.au

PLUSMODELS BLITZ THE OPEL

The Opel Blitz is certainly seeing some attention from the aftermarket guys this month as we have updates from both Eduard and Mig Productions. And now we have news from Plus Model that they are producing comprehensive engine compartment detailing sets for both Tamiya's all new Opel as well as the old faithful from Italeri.
Other new items are listed below, including the .30-cals, which look amazing!

- **PM35041 U.S. 0.30 MACHINE GUN**
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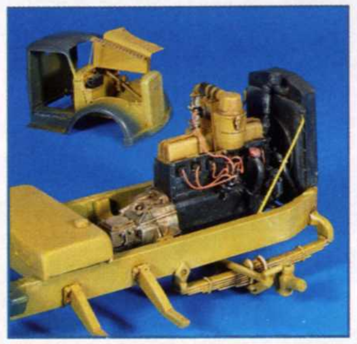

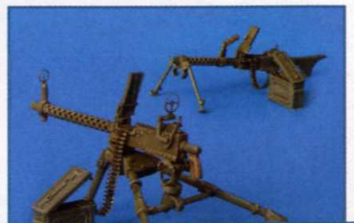

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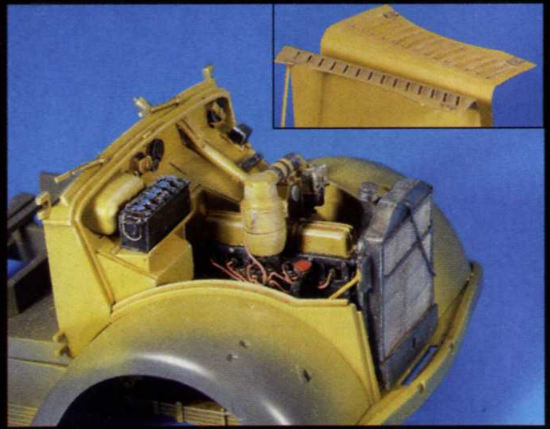
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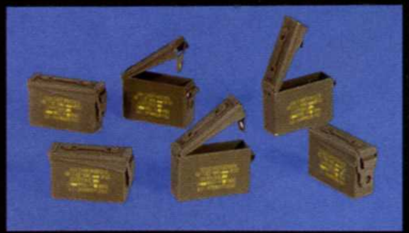
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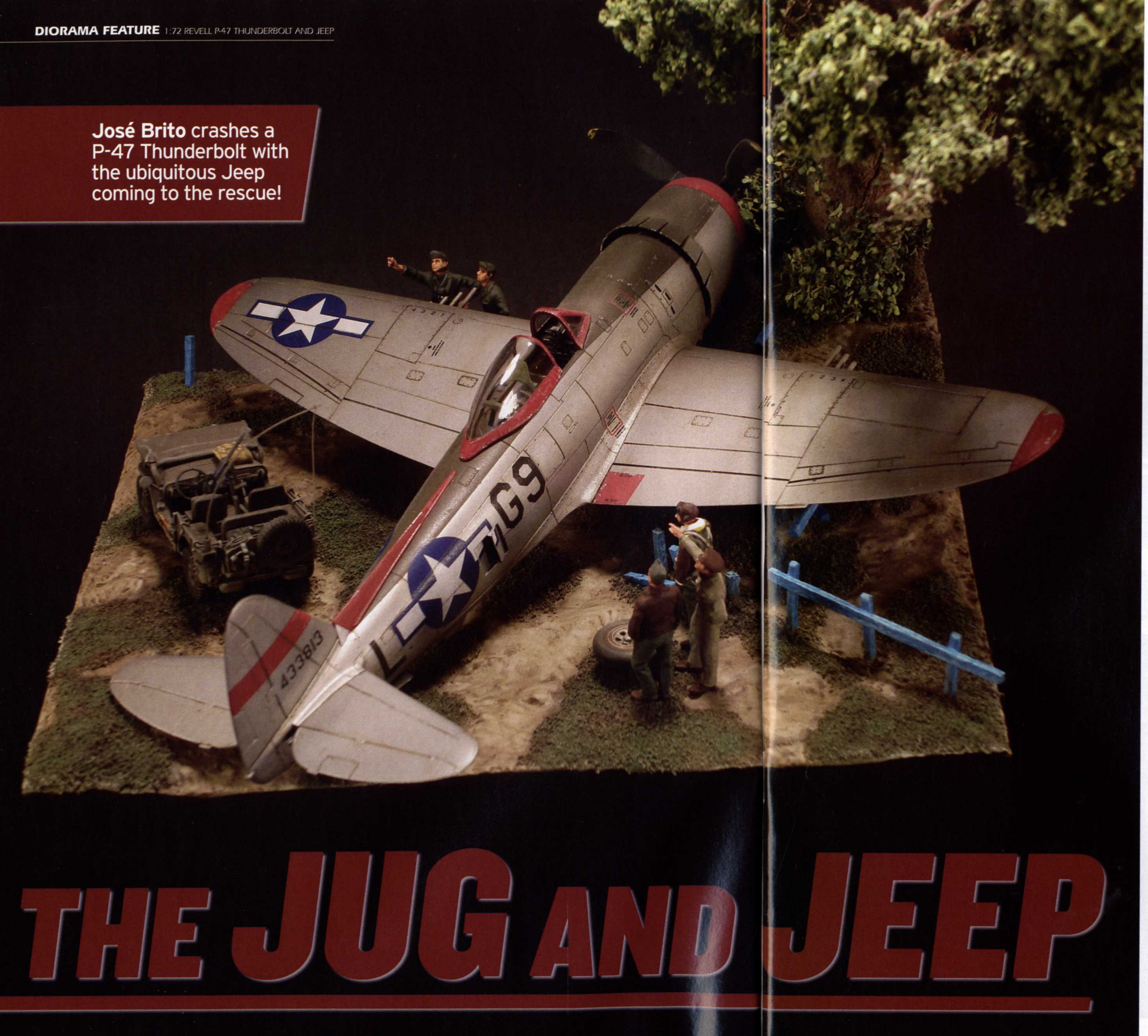
José Brito crashes a P-47 Thunderbolt with the ubiquitous Jeep coming to the rescue!

THE JUG AND JEEP



The Willys Jeep and the P-47 Thunderbolt were two of the most famous pieces of hardware that the Allies had in World War Two. Much has been written and documented about these machines, so getting research for this project wasn't a problem, but I could only find one photo of the actual P-47 D 'Balls Out' I wanted to build.

This was only a side view with some ground crew stood on it and in front of it. Only the forward half of the fuselage is visible. According the site where I found the picture, this particular Thunderbolt had suffered an accident during take off from Kitzingen on the 1st May 1945.

FIRST THOUGHTS

The Revell 1:72 P-47D "Balls Out" is a great kit, featuring good quality grey plastic, concise instructions with two decal options. One for the 'Balls Out' and another for a French aircraft. The decals provided are top quality and the 'Balls Out' bull in the front fuselage and cowling looks stunning and immediately caught my eye.

The Heller 1:72 Willys Jeep is also a fine kit and in my opinion the best available in this scale. The kit comprises 55 pieces, on two light green sprues and one clear. The detail is very good and even from the box it's possible to build a fine looking model. The instructions are very clear and concise and the model is fully assembled in just eight simple steps.

Those two models would form the centre of my diorama. I also wanted to use some Preiser figures to complete the scene. In this case, the 1:72 Preiser, Pilots, Ground Crew. U.S. Army Air Force 1942-45, kit No.72502.

CONSTRUCTION

It has been a long time since I have built a 1:72 aircraft and even longer since building one with a propeller.

The Revell kit is just great and the construction was straightforward. I decided to build it out of the box. I will not go into much detail on the construction, as I don't want to cause any controversy and start letters coming in saying that we are turning into another aircraft modelling magazine!

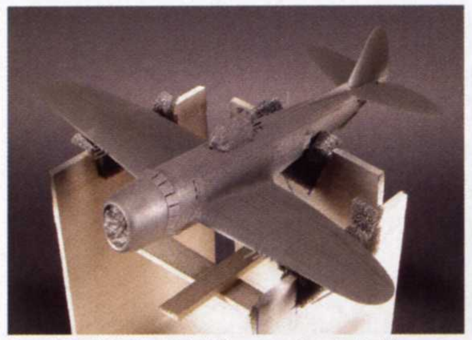
Construction was straightforward and presented me with no problems at all, soon the fuselages halves were glued together and the wings glued on. At this stage I decided to build a balsa jig to secure the model during the final steps of construction and help with the painting. With the jig it avoided the need to constantly handle the model, preventing unwanted finger marks and damage.

BUILDING A BETTER WILLYS

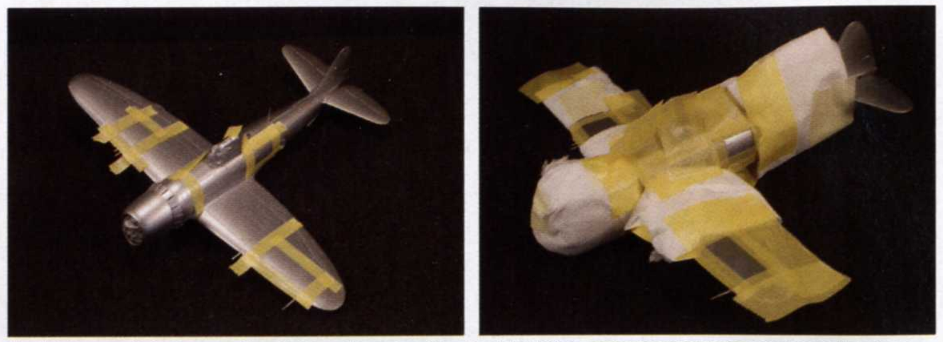
With the P-47 ready for painting I could start work on building the Willys Jeep and as soon I started the construction I noticed that some pieces were over scaled. Heller did a great job, but the Jeep is a tiny vehicle even in 1/1 and in 1:72 is minuscule. So many parts would be almost impossible to reproduce 100% to scale in injected plastic, such as the steering wheel and canvas roof-support framework, which I decided to remake using evergreen plastic sheet, electrical wire and lead foil. One of the most difficult parts to reproduce was the steering wheel. The real one is very fine, so to replicate it, I used fine electrical wire. The canvas roof was made from lead foil along with the windshield cover. Whilst I was in the mood for adding extra details to this tiny model, I also detailed the dashboard, pedals, seats, jerry cans and machine gun.

The last job before adding any ▶

The P-57 was primed using a very thin coat of Tamiya Khaki Drab XF-51. This colour is perfect for highlighting any minor flaws.



Once the Khaki Drab had dried fully and any flaws dealt with, a coat of Tamiya Flat Black was airbrushed on in preparation for the Alclad metal finish.



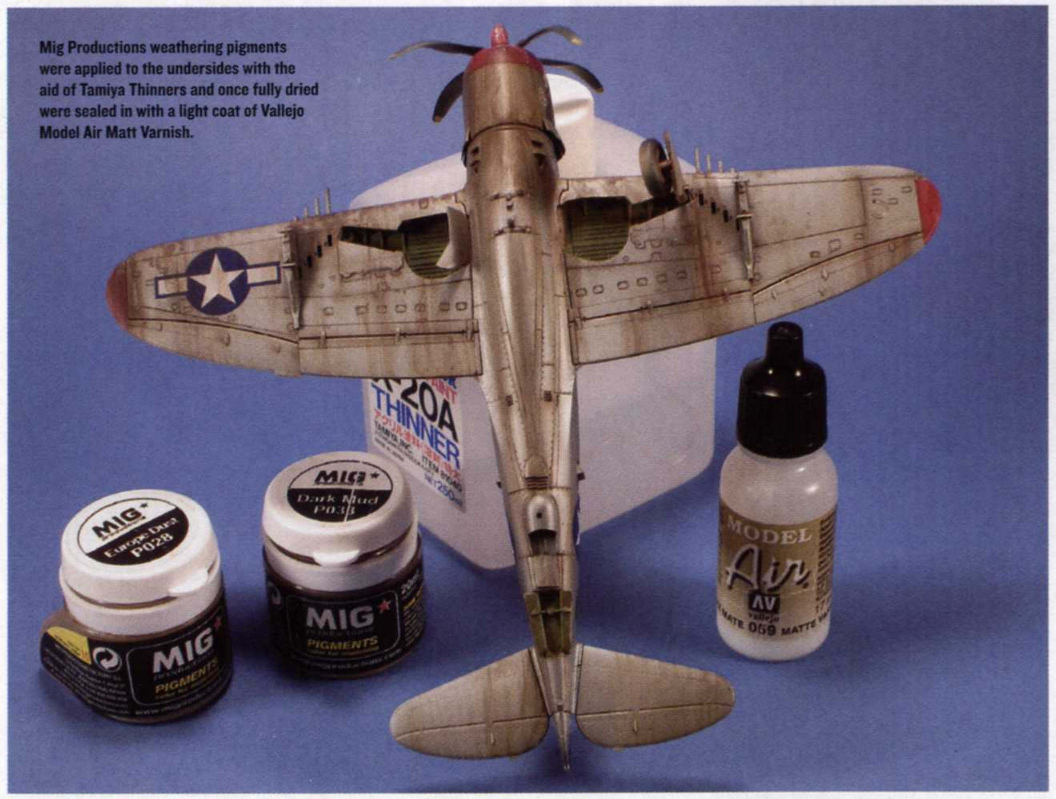
The Alclad was applied using several heavily thinned layers to achieve the desired effect. Tamiya masking tape has now been added prior to adding some of the secondary colours and various other shades of Alclad to add visual interest. Once the tape was all in place, the rest of the model was covered with tissue, to prevent any unwanted overspray.

With paint dry, the tape could be removed prior to spraying on a couple of coats of Johnson's Klear to seal in the Alclad before applying the markings.

MICRO SOL
MICRO SET
G9

The decals used are the ones supplied in the kit and are very good indeed. Micro Set and Sol helped to snuggle the decals down onto the surfaces for that realistic painted-on look.

Some scratches and paint chipping was applied to the engine cowling using thinned Vallejo Model Colors.



Mig Productions weathering pigments were applied to the undersides with the aid of Tamiya Thinners and once fully dried were sealed in with a light coat of Vallejo Model Air Matt Varnish.

◀ paint to the Jeep was to apply some mud to the undersides of the vehicle and for this I used Vallejo Acrylic 400 Plastic Putty stippled on with a small flat brush, this product is perfect for simulating the texture of mud and dried earth.

PAINTING

With the construction done and the previously painted parts, like cockpit, engine and wheel bays protected, it was time to start the painting process. The first layer of paint I applied to the P-47 was Tamiya's XF-51 Khaki Drab; this colour is perfect for detecting flaws and other small mistakes made during construction.

The final finish of the P-47 would be natural aluminium, but I didn't want it to look too pristine, as this plane had failed to take-off and ended up travelling cross country before coming to an undignified halt in an earth bank. With this in mind I wanted it to look pretty dirty.

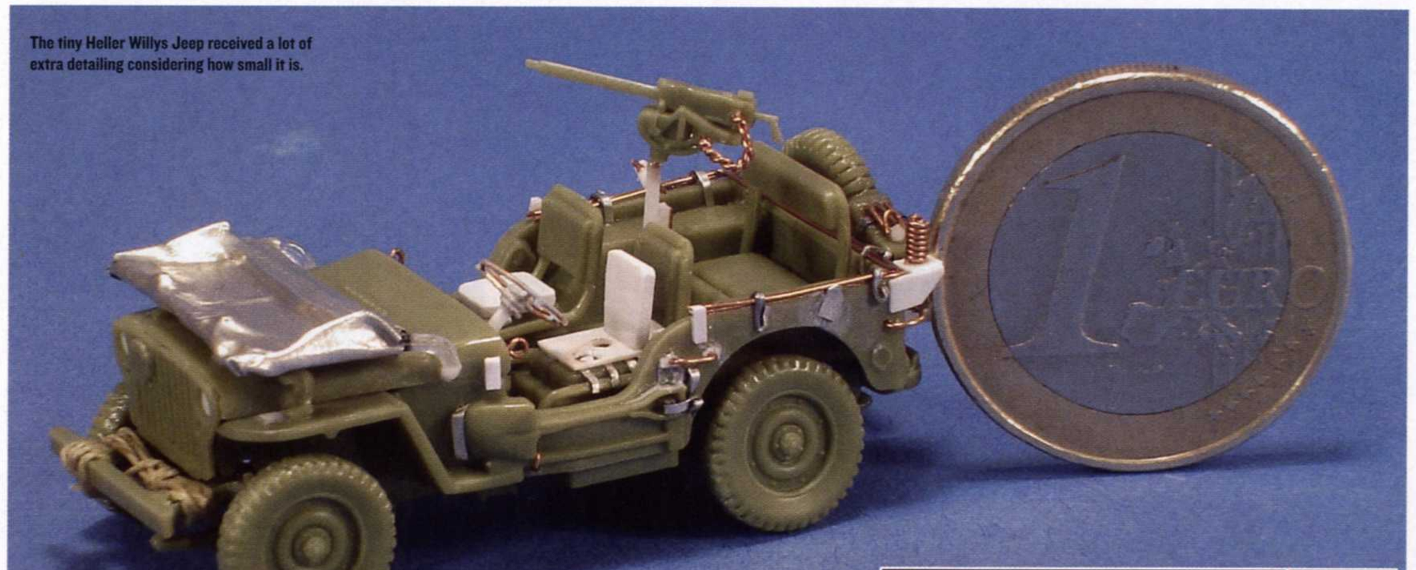
To replicate the aluminium finish I chose to use the Alclad range of paints. The Alclad instructions recommend a gloss black base coat to best achieve the shiny metallic finish, but as I want my P-47 to look dusty and dirty I applied a coat of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black instead. Doing this really toned down the finish. Small pieces such as the drop tanks, undercarriage doors, wheels, canopy and propeller were left off to make painting easier.

Some panels were masked and painted in various tones of Alclad to represent colour variation in the metalwork and add interest to the model's surface. Once this process was completed the wing tips, front cowling, rudder, canopy framing and tail fin were masked to paint the red squadron identification colour. For this I used Tamiya XF-7 Flat Red. After which I painted the anti-glare panel over the top fuselage using Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab.

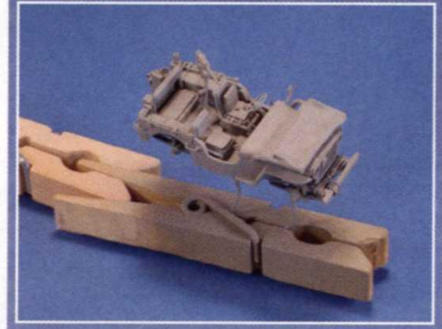
PAINTING ME WILLY

The entire model was painted with Tamiya's Acrylic XF-51 Khaki Drab, heavily diluted with Tamiya Thinner and applied in several light coats to avoid losing detail.

For detail painting the smaller parts, such as the tyres, tools and steering wheel, Vallejo Acrylics were used and for the front and rear lights and the rear view mirror La Pajarita Silver was the choice of colour, La Pajarita Silver can be found in art and crafts stores.



The tiny Heller Willys Jeep received a lot of extra detailing considering how small it is.

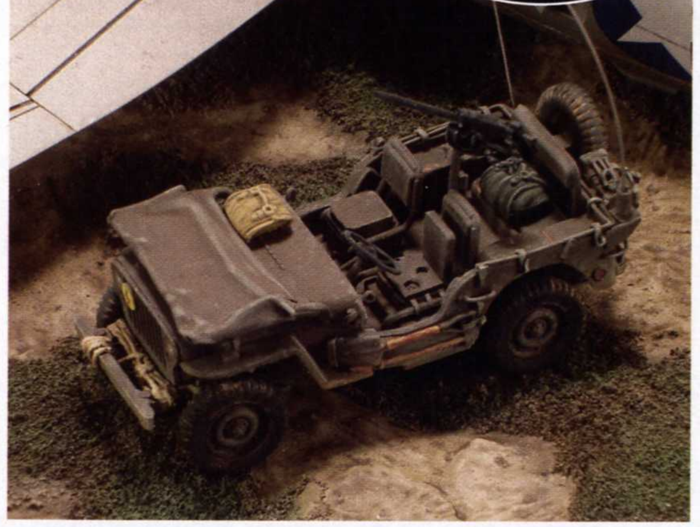


As the jeep had received copper, lead foil and plastic card detailing, the Jeep received a coat of grey primer to unify the surface before airbrushing on the olive drab camouflage paint.

WINSOR & NEWTON

Detail painting and highlighting was undertaken using acrylics and oil paints. The wood grain effect on the tool handles was created by first painting with tan coloured acrylics before applying fine fines of Burnt Sienna oil paint to simulate the grain.

As can be seen from this extreme close-up, the wood grain effect on the tool handles created using oil paint looks really convincing.



THUNDERBOLT FINISHING AND WEATHERING

The whole model received a coat of Johnson's Klear. This not only protects the paint, but also helps with the decal application, which was my next job and thanks to their overall quality went on perfectly with the aid of some Microscale Micro Sol and Set, especially the bull on the cowling, which I initially thought was going to be tricky to say the least.

Once all the decals were in place and left to dry overnight I applied another coat of Johnson's Klear to protect the decals from the final weathering steps.

Next I added small scratches to the paint, from not only general wear and tear but also from the effect of ploughing through a field. For this process I used my trusty Vallejo colours, applied using a very fine brand new brush.

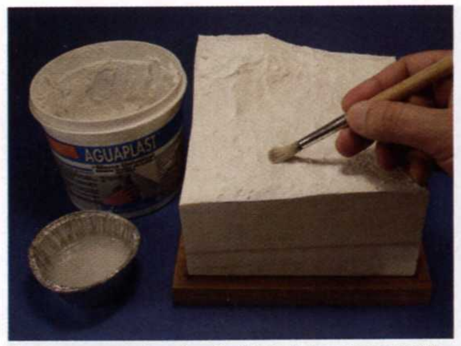
Once dry it was time for a wash of Winsor & Newton No. 35 Raw Umber heavily diluted with Winsor & Newton Sansodor (Low Odour Solvent). This wash was applied with special attention to the recessed areas such as the panel lines. The excess was carefully removed with a dry cotton bud, this is a very time consuming process but very important in achieving the look I was after.

DIRTY WILLYS AND BELLY

The belly of the aircraft needed some extra attention, and extra dirt. For this I used the good old Mig pigments diluted with Tamiya X-20A thinner. The colours Brick Dust P029 and Dry Mud P033 were mixed and applied in horizontal lines to represent where it had slid along the ground. Once dry a final coat of matt varnish sealed all the pigments in place.

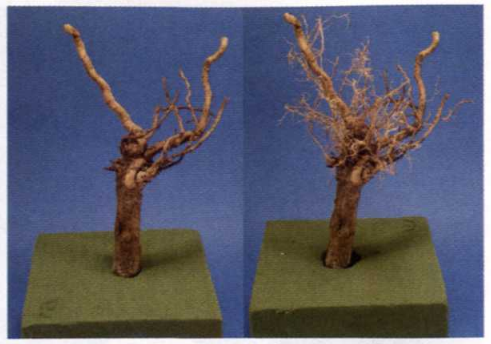
WEATHERING WILLYS

For the Willys, I started the weathering by adding scratches using a mix of Vallejo Acrylics 914 Green Ochre, 893 US Dark Green and 928 Light Flesh. They were painted on using the finest brush I could find. The paint must be kept thin; some of the scratches were done twice using slight colour variations for a more realistic look. I also used this mix to paint the highlights on the windshield cover ▶

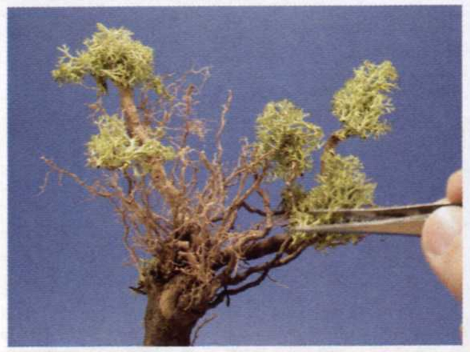


The diorama was made up from florist's Oasis foam fixed with PVA glue onto a wooden base. Household wall filler was then used to form the basic groundwork.

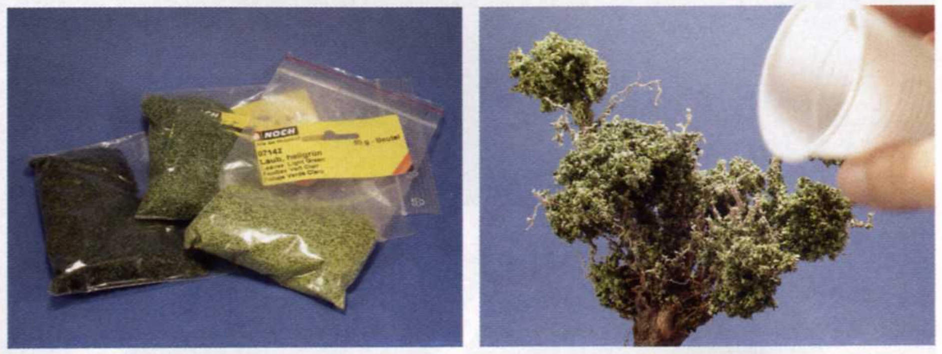
During the construction of the base the author constantly checked that the layout was balanced and still conveyed the story the author had in mind.



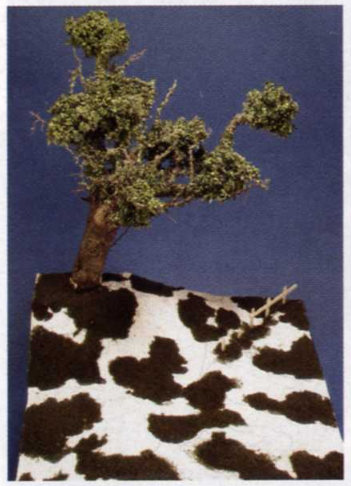
To make the tree a spring green root has been chosen. When picking a suitable root make sure it looks 'in scale' for the scene it is to go on. This mainly concerns the overall height and the texture of the bark. To give the tree extra volume, small holes were drilled into the larger branches before attaching smaller stems with super glue.



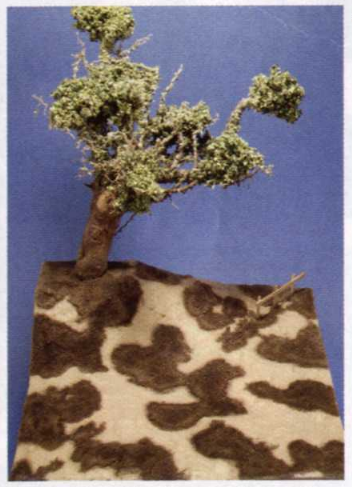
The foliage was started by first adding model railway synthetic foam.



Next the tree was sprayed using 3M Spray Glue, then scatter material was sprinkled on, followed by a second spray of 3M glue to fix the leaves in place. This scatter material, like the synthetic foam is a model railway product and is readily available in most good model shops.



With the tree completed, the ground work was added and for this static grass was added in clumps and stuck down with UHU Art & Crafts Glue.



Once the glue had dried the areas of bare earth were airbrushed with Tamiya Buff, before a final dry-brushing to brighten the colour of the grass.

◀ and all the straps.

For the dust and mud I used Mig Pigments and some pastels. On a tiny model like this Jeep, attention must be paid to not cover the entire model in pigments, which is all too easy on a model this small.

FIGURES

As usual, I like to use figures in all my projects, they not only give scale to the scene, but also are crucial in telling the story. It's called the human factor!

For this project in particular I decided to use the figures from the excellent range of Preiser. The set I chose was Pilots, Ground Crew. U.S. Army Air Force 1942-45, (No. 72502). The figures are well moulded and offer convincingly natural poses. Perfect for the scene I had in mind.

The construction was straightforward and soon they were ready for painting. The first step was to airbrush them with thinned Tamiya XF-15 Flat Flesh. The clothes and small details were painted with Vallejo Acrylics and the flesh areas with Winsor & Newton oils. Once finished I thought looked very natural and convincing.

LANDING SITE

I normally display my models on bases with three-dimensional terrain and so thought this diorama should be no different. I think elevated groundwork adds interest and a more dramatic look to the whole scene.

I used a wood base painted black and over it I started building the groundwork up with oasis foam. I used wood glue to fix the foam to the base before covering with Aguaplast. Aguaplast is a pre-mixed wall filler, which was applied using a small brush and once almost dry was textured by stippling the surface with a large short bristled brush.

TREE MAKING

For the tree I normally use dry spring green roots. The root must be shaped like a tree and be appropriate for the scale of the scene it is to be used in. To give volume to the tree I added some small roots to the main root, by drilling several holes with a pin-vice into the main root, the smaller roots were then inserted into the holes and fixed with super glue. Again, this step is time consuming but necessary to create a convincing look.

Once the roots were all in place, I add small pieces of synthetic foam; these were in turn fixed with super glue. The branches were then blasted with 3M Photo Mount Spray. The 3M spray will be needed to fix the synthetic foliage used to represent the leaves. For the foliage I used several green tones of scatter material from the brand Noch. I normally use 2 or 3 colours of leaf to stop the foliage looking monotone.

FENCING

To add interest to the scene and control the background, I made wooden fence, for this I used balsa wood. It's lightweight and easy to cut. The fence was painted with Vallejo Acrylics and later weathered with Winsor & Newton Oil Colours.

The vegetation was made with synthetic grass from the brand Busch. These synthetic scenery products can be found in most model railway shops.

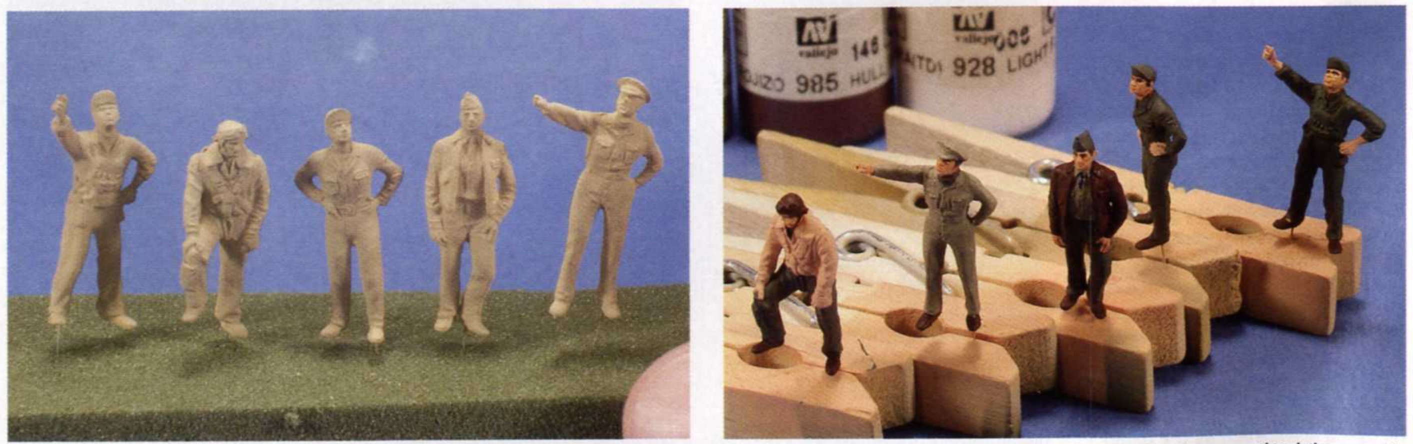
The synthetic grass was applied with the help of UHU Arts & Crafts Glue. Vinyl glue that once dry is totally transparent. The grass was applied in small portions, one clump at time . Some final dry-brushing brought the different elements together before fixing the P-47, Jeep and figures to the base. As usual I keep everything at angles to the sides of the base to add interest and instil a subconscious drama to the scene.

CONCLUSION

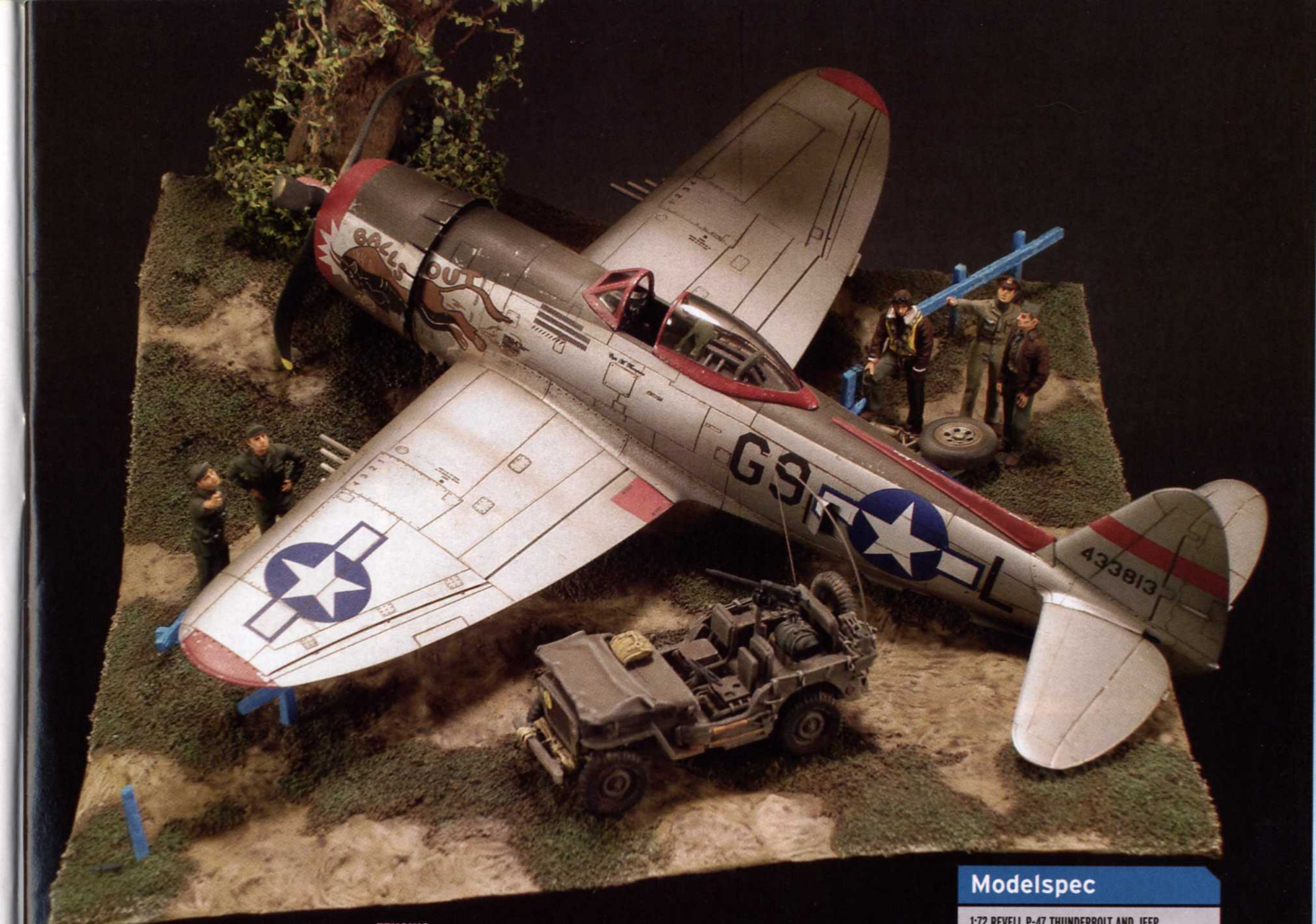
The P-47 and the Willys Jeep were two of the most iconic pieces of Allied hardware, which played a vital role in bringing the worst conflict known to mankind to an end.

I didn't have any Jeep models in my collection, but now thanks to my latest diorama, I have fixed that. This diorama was a challenge but I learnt a lot from it and I am sure it has helped take my modelling to the next level.

It was a great experience and, as usual a great pleasure. ■



The figures are from the Preiser range. These were first undercoated with Tamiya thinned XF-15 Flat Flesh before detail painting using Vallejo Model Color acrylics. The figures have been secured to clothes pegs with short lengths of wire to make painting easier.



Modelspec

1:72 REVELL P-47 THUNDERBOLT AND JEEP

Items used

1:72 Revell, P-47D-30 Thunderbolt 'Balls Out', kit No. 04155
1:72 Heller, Willys MB Jeep & Trailer, Kit No.79997
1:72 Preiser, Pilots, Ground Crew. U.S. Army Air Force 1942-45, Kit No.72502

Materials used

Oasis foam, Synthetic foliage, 3M Photo Mount Spray, UHU Art and crafts glue, Aguaplast - Robbialac

Paints used

Various Vallejo Model Color and Model Air Acrylics
Winsor & Newton Oil colours
Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab, XF-19 Sky Grey, XF-57 Buff, XF-02 Flat White, XF-01 Flat Black, XF-07 Flat Red, X-20A Thinner
La Pajarita Silver

Pigments used

MIG Pigments P028 Europe Dust, P033 Dark Mud

Other materials

Winsor & Newton Sansodor (Low Odour Solvent)
Testors Dullcote Lacquer, Matt Varnish
Vallejo Acrylics 400 Plastic Putty

References

Les vehicles alliés de la libération, Editions Ouest-France, François Bertin, ISBN - 2.7373.3426.8

✓ Good overall detail and fit of the Revell and Heller kits. The Preiser figures are also very good.

✗ Some overscale pieces in the Jeep kit.

Available from

Revell: all good model shops
Heller: stocked by www.hannants.co.uk
Preiser: available from www.gaugemaster.com

MODEL SHOW HERE TODAY

Ross Mahoney reports on the IPMS West Cornwall show held on the 6th September 2008 at the St John's Hall, Penzance.

PANZERS, PLANES AND PASTIES!

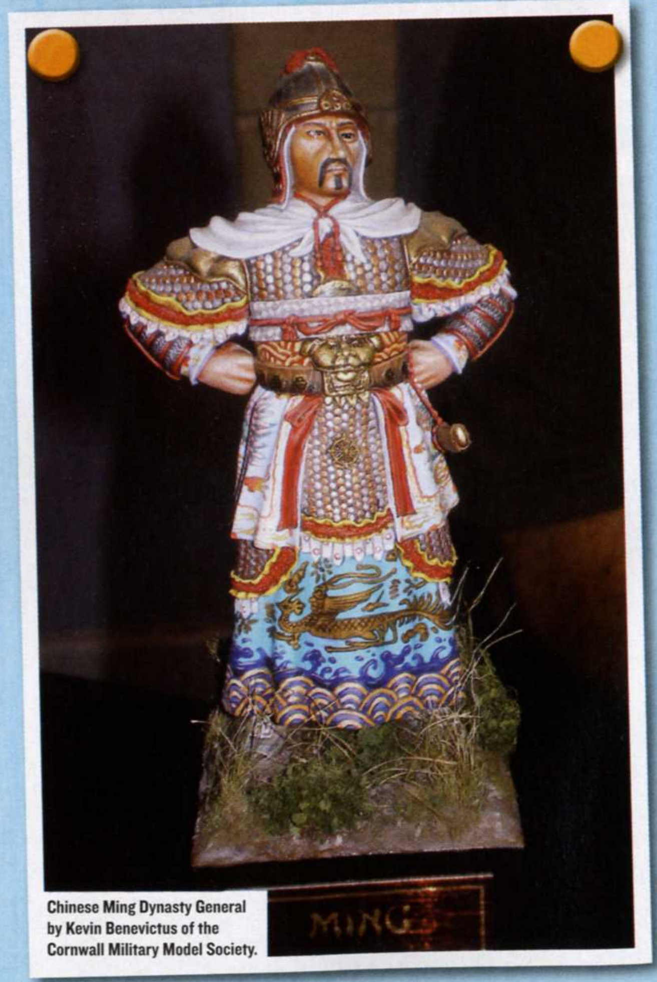
It only seems like yesterday that we were putting the last show away but on 6 September this year IPMS West Cornwall put together its 3rd annual show, the second at the St John's Hall in Penzance. A special mention must go to Cammett who kindly sponsored the show for us this year. While the show is at the end of the country, well almost as Land's End is only 6 miles away, it is well worth the visit.

The show was well supported by traders this year with Cammett, MDC, Mainly Military Models, Just Bases, Great North Roads and Paul Davis all making the trek down to Cornwall to provide us with the goodies we all enjoy. The show was also well supported with local clubs making the journey down to the far reaches of the Southwest. As a club, we are grateful to both the traders and club for their continuing support.

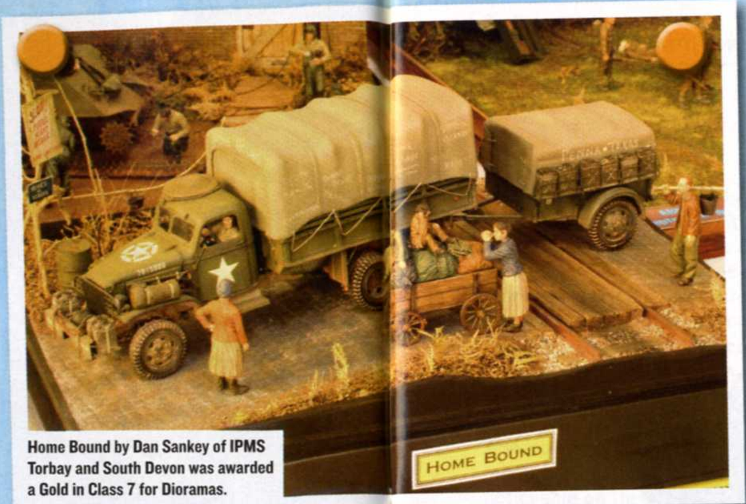
This year the club decided to try something different for the competition, scrapping the normal system of first, second and third, and going for the open system as used at shows such as Euro Militaire. We hope this opened up the scope for modellers entering the competition. As Chief Judge the one thing it did for me was give me a new found respect for the Chief Judges at these big shows as the amount of work required to run the competition, even in a show of our size, was immense. Thanks must go out to the judges who gave up their time to help. In addition, a big thanks to the Editor who stepped in to judge Best of Show for us, cheers John.

On that note, the competition was well supported with up to seventy entries, a record for the club. The quality was superb with some eye-catching entries. Best of Show went to John Wilkes from IPMS Torbay for his HMS Sheffield with Exocet damage. John also walked away with a handful of Gold's in numerous classes. We also had a few juniors enter too, which was positive to see. Again, thanks to the Editor as he kindly donated a kit to one of the juniors who showed real imagination with his entry. We also had a couple of trophies sponsored by both Cammett and MDC. These were for the 'Best Piece Not Entered in the Competition' and Best Junior. Again their support was most graciously received.

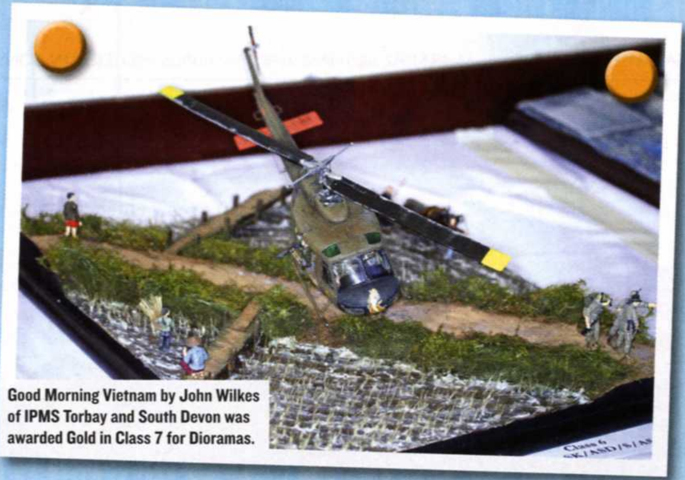
All in all the day was a great success so if you want somewhere to come spend your money on goodies come to Cornwall for a pasty and model show, roll on next year's show. ■



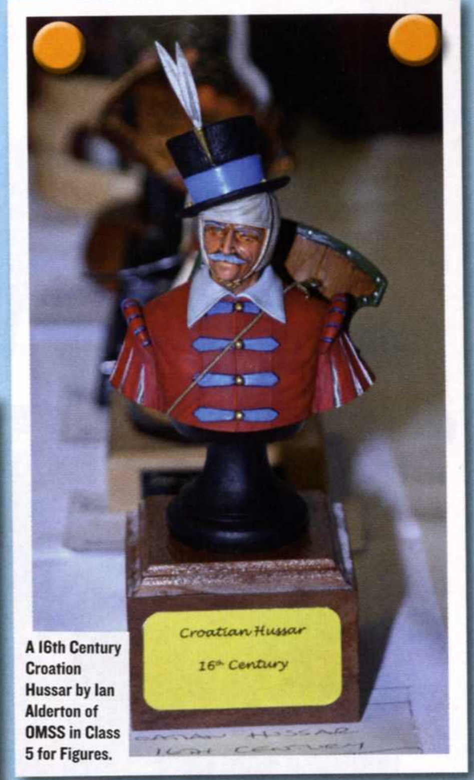
Chinese Ming Dynasty General by Kevin Benevictus of the Cornwall Military Model Society.



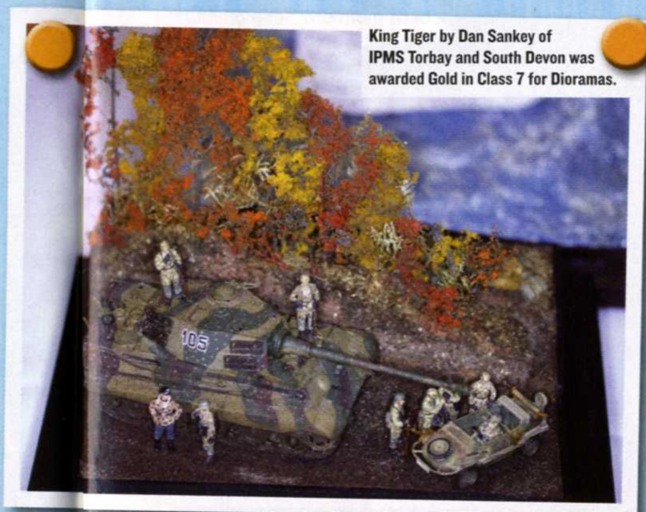
Home Bound by Dan Sankey of IPMS Torbay and South Devon was awarded a Gold in Class 7 for Dioramas.



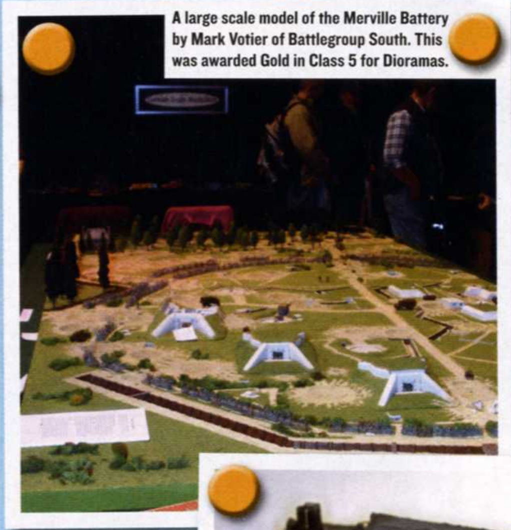
Good Morning Vietnam by John Wilkes of IPMS Torbay and South Devon was awarded Gold in Class 7 for Dioramas.



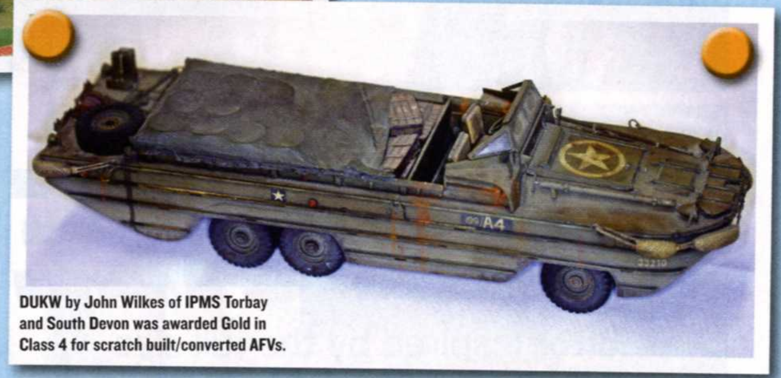
A I6th Century Croation Hussar by Ian Alderton of OMSS in Class 5 for Figures.



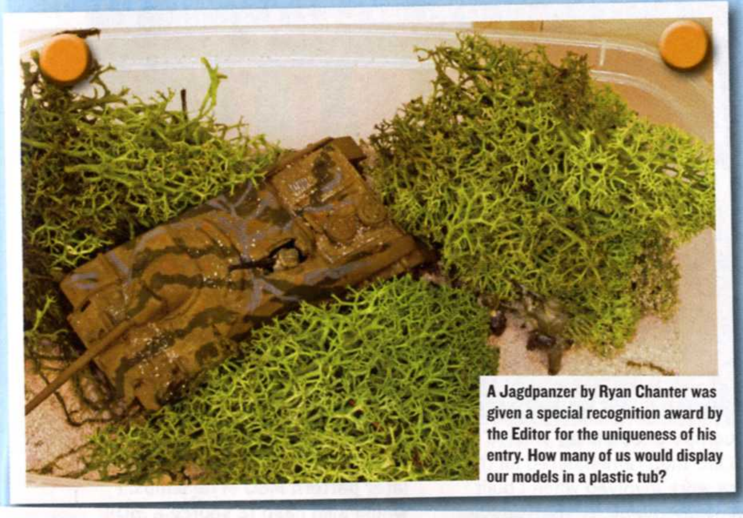
King Tiger by Dan Sankey of IPMS Torbay and South Devon was awarded Gold in Class 7 for Dioramas.



A large scale model of the Merville Battery by Mark Votier of Battlegroup South. This was awarded Gold in Class 5 for Dioramas.



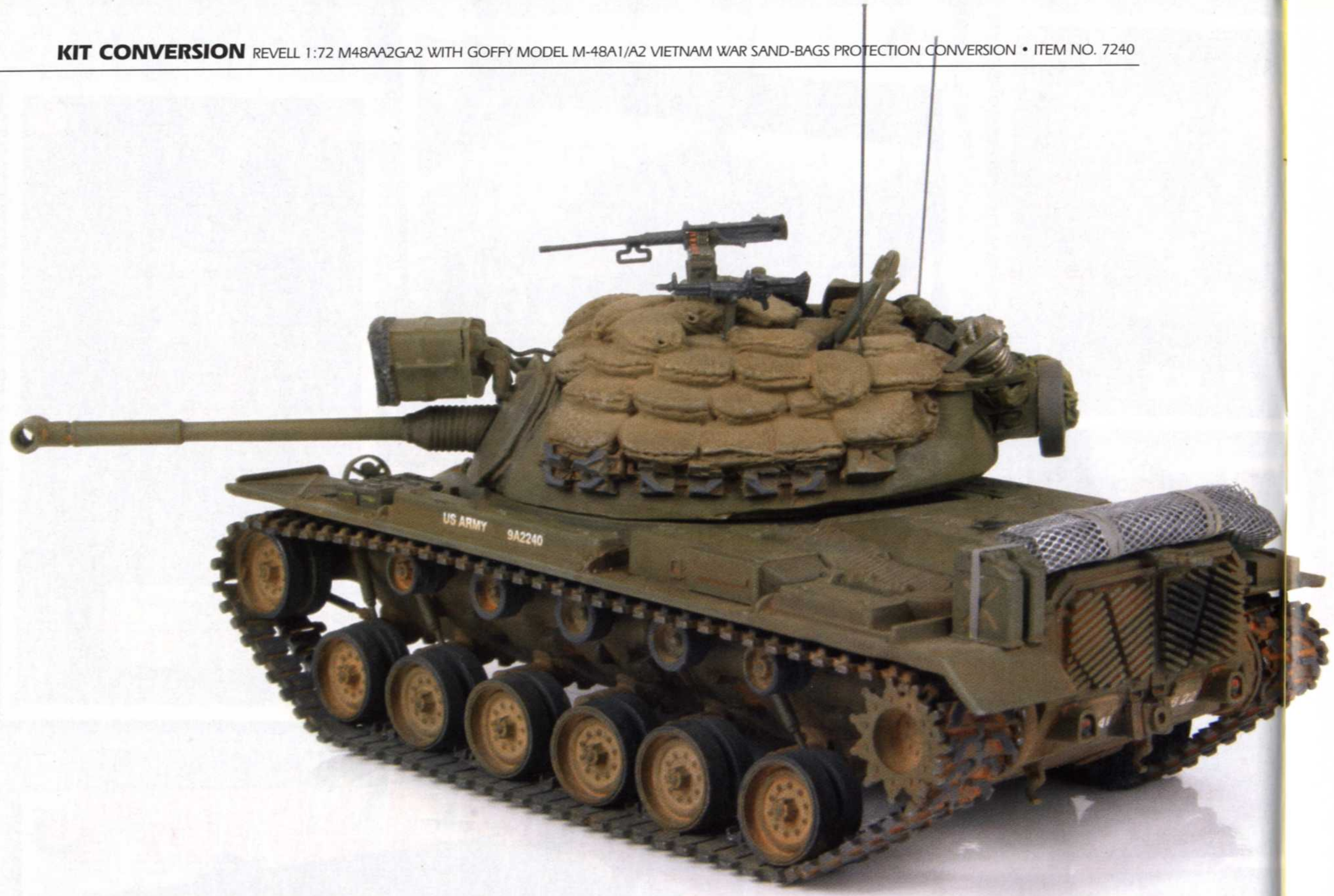
DUKW by John Wilkes of IPMS Torbay and South Devon was awarded Gold in Class 4 for scratch built/converted AFVs.



A Jagdpanzer by Ryan Chanter was given a special recognition award by the Editor for the uniqueness of his entry. How many of us would display our models in a plastic tub?

JEZEBEL
XFF 891

Outside the hall was a small collection of privately owned military vehicles including this beautifully restored BSA Motorcycle, Willys Jeep and Trailer and Lightweight Land Rover.



PALM SIZED PATTON

The Editor inspired by the full size reference in last issue's MMI builds his own Braille scale jungle buster.

I have always had an interest in the US armour involved in the Vietnam war, which is why I somewhat selfishly featured the full size reference on the M48A3 a couple of issues back. While I was going through the photos to use I really got the urge to build an M48, first of all I thought about building Tamiya's 1:35 kit, then remembered all the extra work involved when I built two of the things for the Tamiya magazine several years ago. That idea was discarded instantly but thankfully at the same time I was sorting through some older review kits and bits and came across the Goffy Model's update set. This featured a new turret featuring sandbag protection, new road wheels and return rollers along with a separate driver's hatch and a selection of stowage.

This and having also recently reviewed the Revell M48 gave me no excuse but to get building.

It wasn't until I had a close look at both the Revell kit and the Goffy set that I noticed that the update set was designed for the Italeri M48 and not this Revell version. At first I didn't think it would be much of a problem, as they are essentially the same kit. But on closer inspection noticed that the 90mm gun would need to be modified and I would have to make a new set of early style headlights, as the Revell kit only includes the later pattern M60 style lamps. I would also need to source a .50-cal machine gun from another kit, because Revell only supply a barrel for fitting into the M1 cupola and not a full gun to mount above the cupola as often seen on vehicles operating in Vietnam. Basically, life would have been much easier if I had used the Italeri kit as the Goffy instructions recommended!

CONSTRUCTION

The Revell kit gives the option of building one of six different versions, two of which are based on the diesel engined M48A3/5 and the rest being based on the gasoline engined A2 version.

I wanted to base my model on the more common and popular with their crews diesel powered A3. To build the A3 from the kit was simply a case of adding the extra return rollers, and the large fender mounted air cleaners, which are included for the Norwegian and IDF versions. Goffy do include better detailed resin return rollers, but you only get three per side, where as the A3 is fitted with five per side, so I ended up having to use a mixture, which I don't think is too noticeable on the finished model.

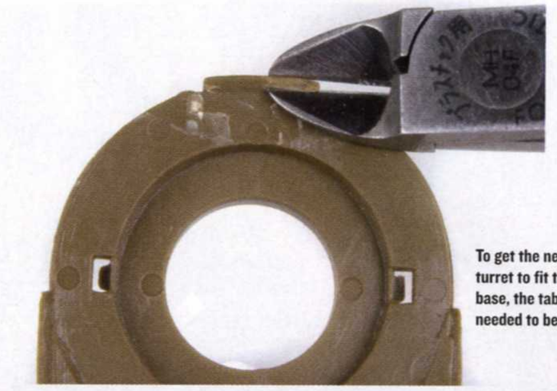
Whilst on the subject of the running gear, the main road wheels included in the kit are rather odd as they have been moulded as a single thick wheel instead of being made from an inner and outer wheel as on the real thing. This means that there is nowhere for the track guide horns to go, which coincidentally the tracks don't actually come with anyway! As I was fitting the replacement Goffy wheels, which are made up from a correct inner and out wheel, the lack of guide horns becomes even more noticeable. To overcome this omission I made new ones by slicing up some 60 thou plastic card channel (see accompanying photo). These little 'U' shaped segments were then glued on the inside of the track run between each link, time consuming but worth it in the end.

TURRET

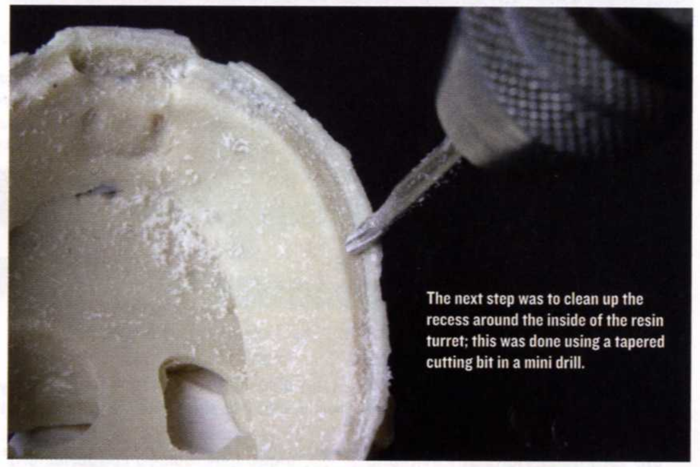
The only part of the kit turret needed is the base, which will need the tab at the front removing before the new Goffy part can be attached. Having said this, I did find that the Goffy turret did need to receive some minor surgery around the inner lip at its base before the Revell part fitted properly. Once the halves had been fixed using Bob Smith Industries' CA glue, I finished off by filling the couple of gaps that appeared around the rear of the turret with Squadron MMD Green Putty.

SANDBAGS AND DETAILS

With the basic construction of the turret complete, the next step was to add a bit of extra detailing but while adding the little bits of detailing I couldn't help but notice that the woven texture of the sandbags was way too overscale. I thought the best way to deal with this was to give them a couple of coats of Mr Surfacer 500; this ▶



To get the new Goffy resin turret to fit the Revell turret base, the tab at the front needed to be removed.



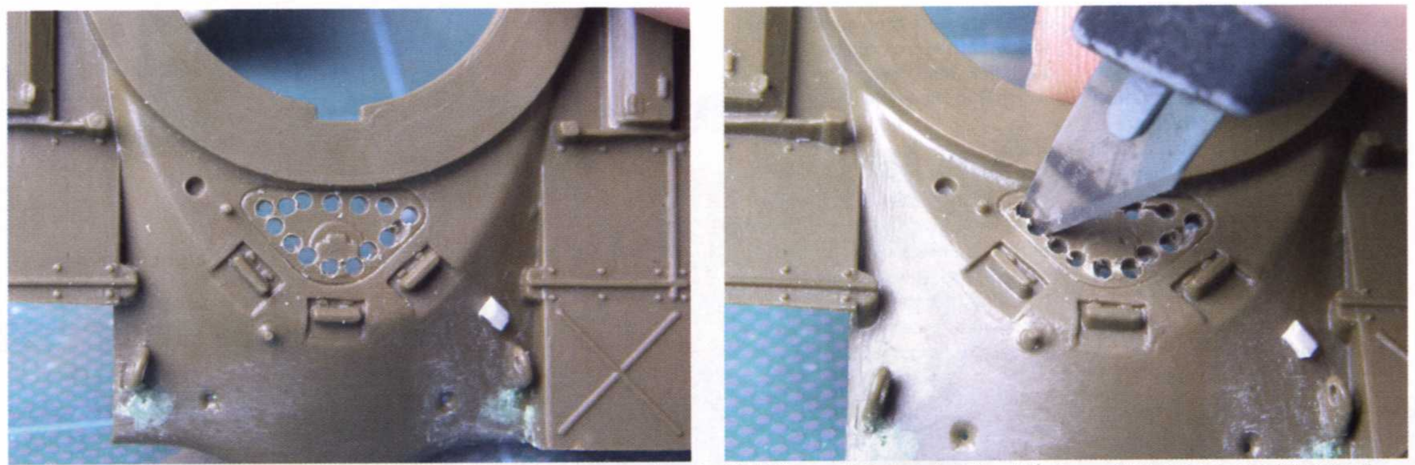
The next step was to clean up the recess around the inside of the resin turret; this was done using a tapered cutting bit in a mini drill.

Once the two halves had been joined some filling was needed around the rear. This was done using Squadron MMD Fast-Drying Green Putty.

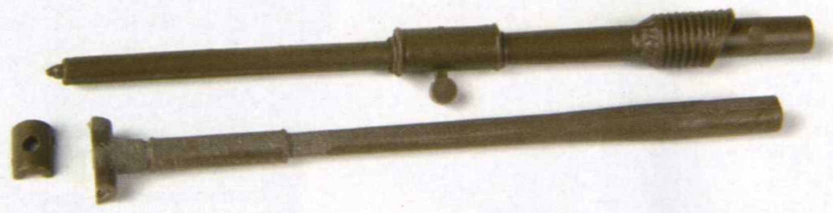
The sandbags are cast integrally with the main turret and Goffy have done a great job, but I did think their texture was a bit on the heavy side, so gave them all a couple of coats of Mr Surfacer to tone down the effect.

To start with I was only going to add a very small amount of extra detailing. One of those was to drill out the solid lifting eyes on the glacis plate.

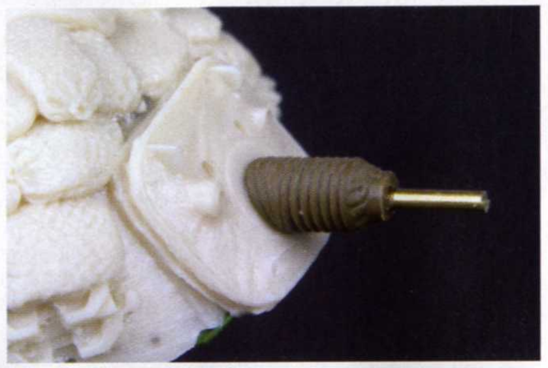
After drilling out the lifting eye I decided to remove one of the front fender sections for a more battle damaged look.



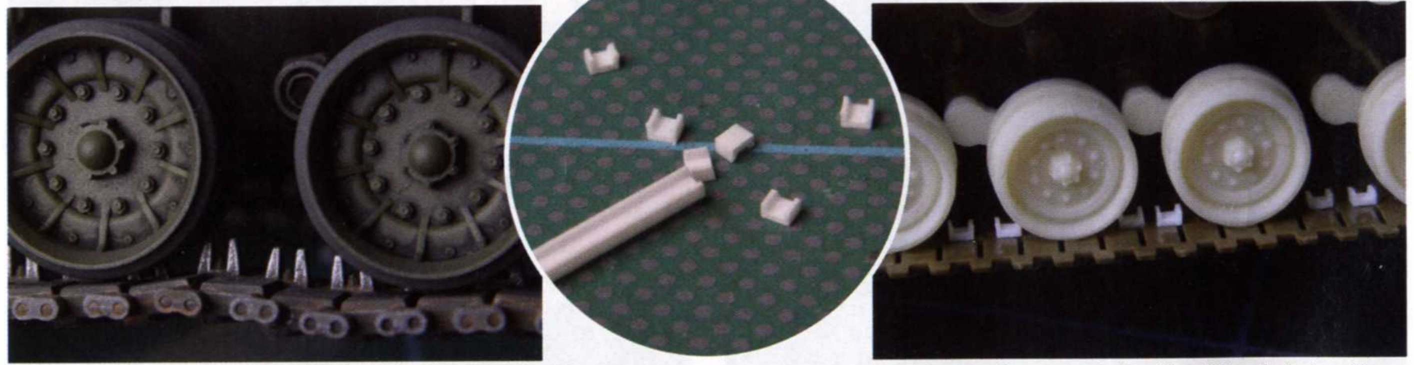
In the Goffy set a new separate driver's hatch is included and since I don't think I have ever seen a photo of an M48 in Vietnam with the hatch shut, I thought I best remove it. The first step was to drill a series of holes around the outside edge of the hatch. Next a scalpel was used to cut between holes and once the hatch has been removed the edges could be cleaned up with various needle files.



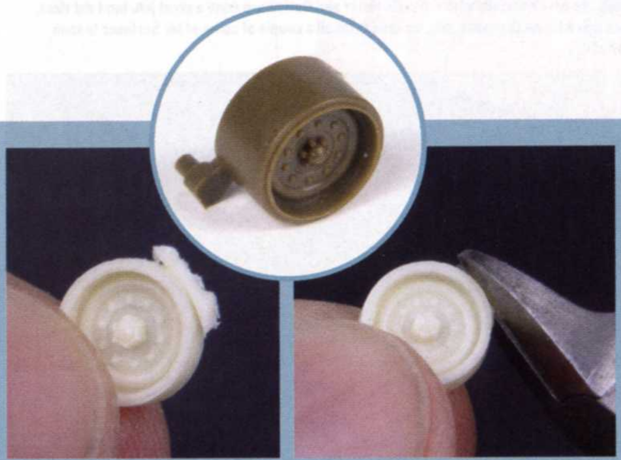
As the Goffy conversion is intended for the Italeri kit, I had to modify the Revell gun barrel. Strangely the 105mm gun comes with the concertina dust cover, but the 90mm gun does not, so I had to chop the bit from the 105, then shorten the 90mm before fitting.



The concertina part has now been fitted to the resin turret with superglue. A hole was then drilled in the end and brass rod inserted to help give a good anchor for the barrel.

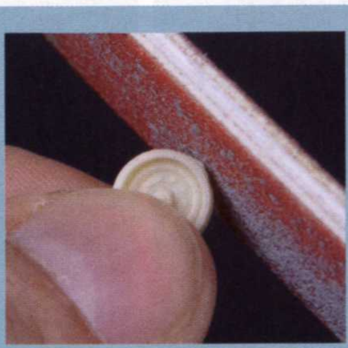


In this photo of a 1:35 scale M60, the distinctive guide horns are clearly visible. In the Revell kit no guide horns are included with the tracks whatsoever. New ones were fashioned from .60thou plastic channel from Evergreen. The channel bar was cut into thin sections and then carefully glued in between the inside of each track link.

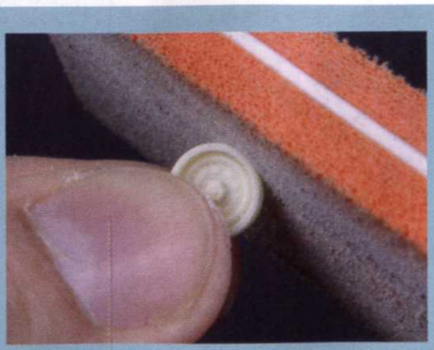


As the kit wheels are moulded as large cylinders and not as two individual wheels, Goffy thankfully include a full set of new road wheels.

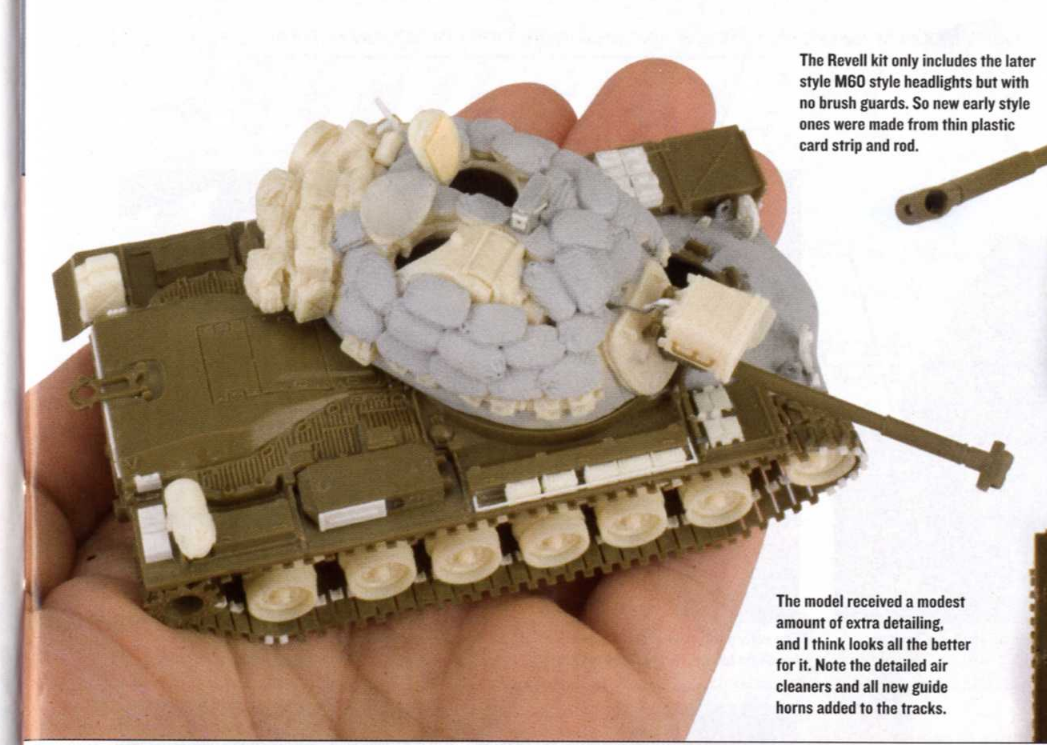
Once the wheels have been removed from the casting block, the remainder of the plug was carefully removed with a pair of good quality side cutters, in this case Tamiya ones.



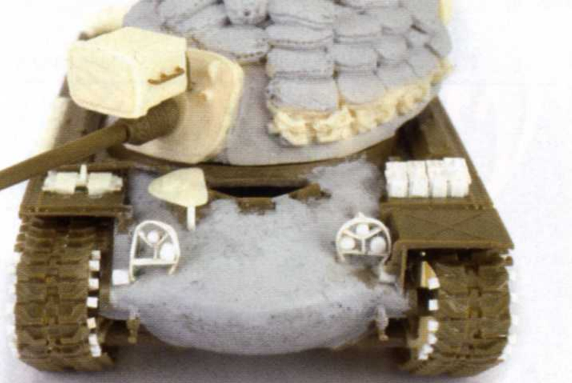
The little stub that was left was then removed with various grade-sanding sticks. Both Cammett and Little Cars offer an excellent range of these sticks.



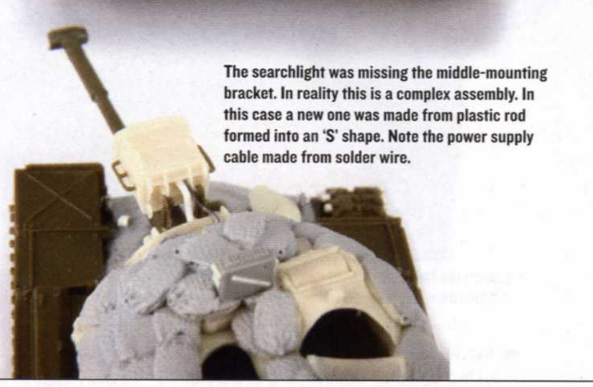
Final clean up was undertaken with a fine grade sponge backed sanding pad. This was perfect for removing any sanding marks from the more abrasive stick used earlier.



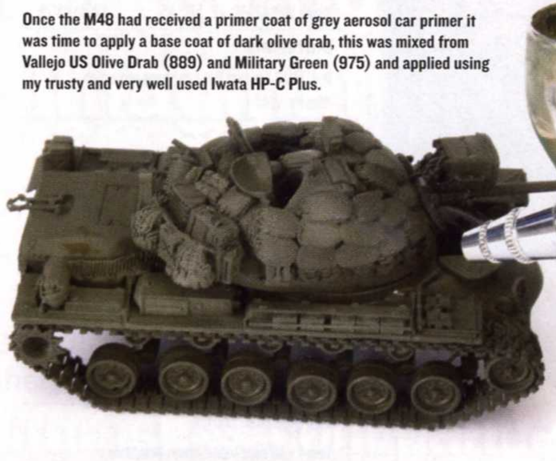
The model received a modest amount of extra detailing, and I think looks all the better for it. Note the detailed air cleaners and all new guide horns added to the tracks.



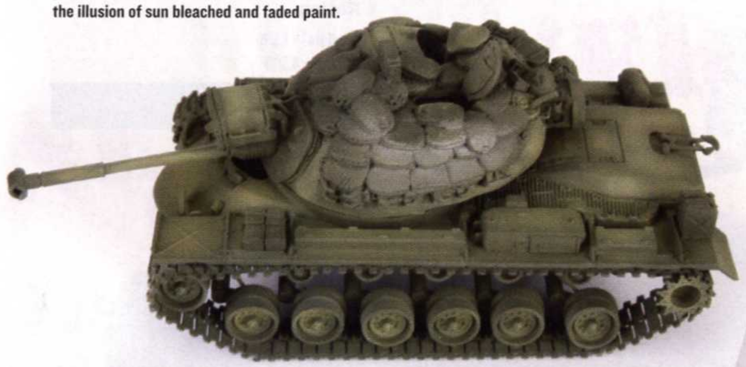
The Revell kit only includes the later style M60 style headlights but with no brush guards. So new early style ones were made from thin plastic card strip and rod.



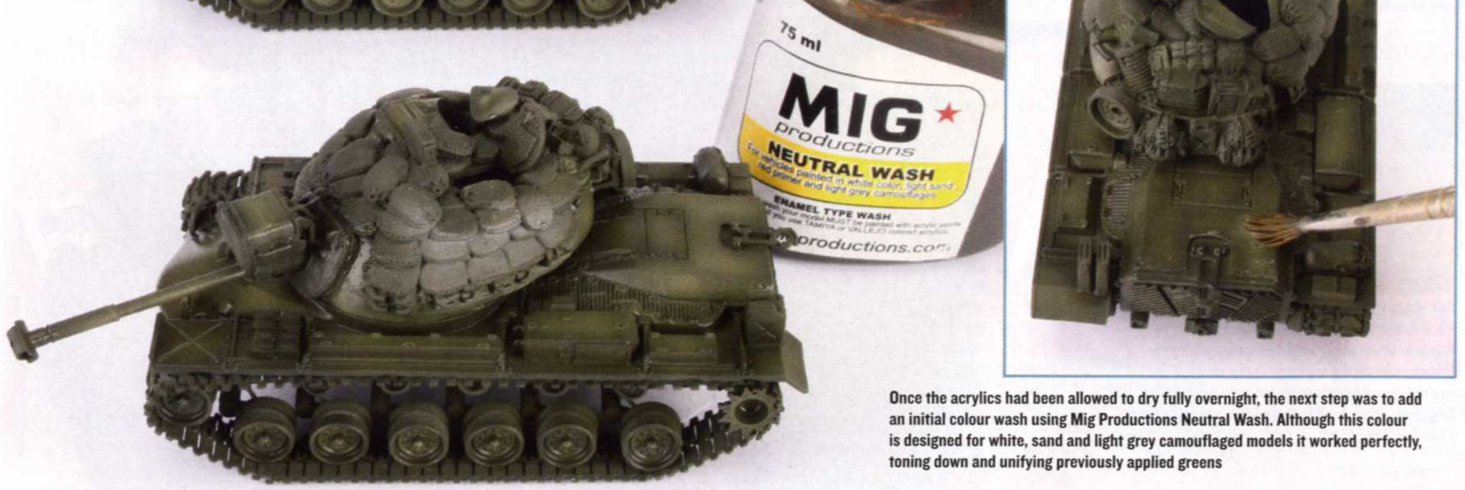
The searchlight was missing the middle-mounting bracket. In reality this is a complex assembly. In this case a new one was made from plastic rod formed into an 'S' shape. Note the power supply cable made from solder wire.



Once the M48 had received a primer coat of grey aerosol car primer it was time to apply a base coat of dark olive drab, this was mixed from Vallejo US Olive Drab (889) and Military Green (975) and applied using my trusty and very well used Iwata HP-C Plus.



Once the base OD had been airbrushed on Citadel Foundation's Gretchin Green was misted into the centre of panels etc., to create the illusion of sun bleached and faded paint.



Once the acrylics had been allowed to dry fully overnight, the next step was to add an initial colour wash using Mig Productions Neutral Wash. Although this colour is designed for white, sand and light grey camouflaged models it worked perfectly, toning down and unifying previously applied greens

◀ really helped to reduce the texture to a reasonable level.

The detailing consisted of making the missing searchlight stowage brackets on the left hand side of the turret basket, as well as adding the power cable and middle mounting bracket on the searchlight. I also carefully milled out the top of a couple of the sandbags beside the cupola so I could fit a 'mini-gun' ammo box for the commander's .50-cal machine gun. This was done using the same bit in my mini-drill as I used on the inner lip of the turret. This gave the ammo box a 'sat in' and weighty look rather than unrealistically sitting on top of the sand bags.

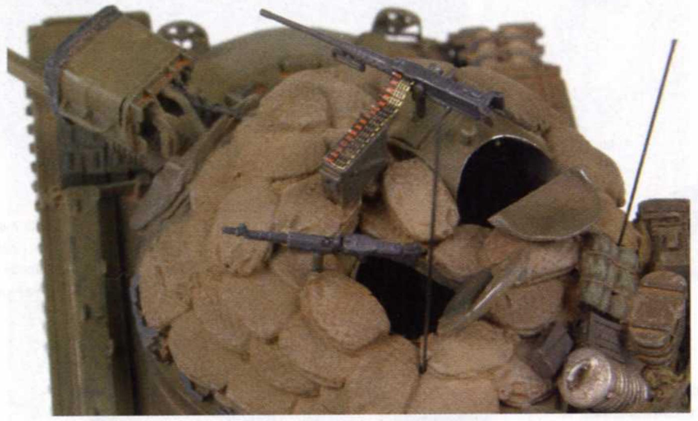
HULL DETAILS

With the turret complete, I turned my attention to the hull, I didn't want to go mad with the detailing but add just the bits I felt were really necessary. This basically consisted of making some new headlight assemblies, one of which I added some battle damage to tie in with the missing fender sections and give the impression that the tank has done some jungle busting, where the jungle has fought back!

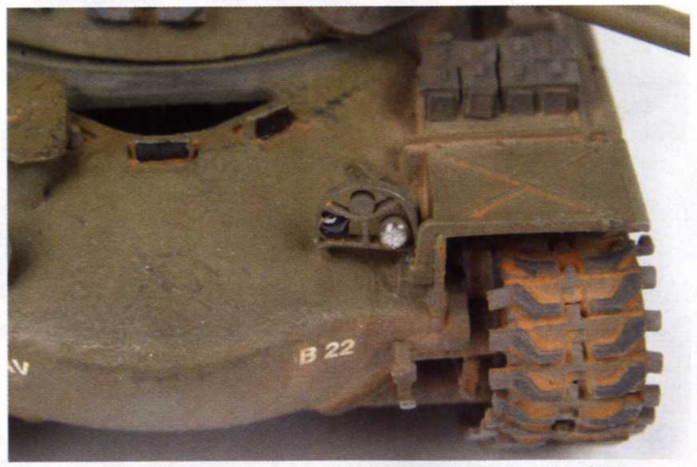
Moving to the rear, I added some extra detail to the air-cleaners along with the engine deck mounting bolts, which in my eyes weren't prominent enough in the kit. Lastly I added the missing lip above the rear engine louvers from 10 x 20 thou plastic card strip.

PAINTING

Due to space limitations in this article, the main steps of the process are covered in the photo captions and are pretty much the same as I used on the Staghound featured in last month's issue. Following the basic airbrushing and oil paint colour washes, the ▶



Both the M60 and .50-cal machine guns were taken from Dragon kits. The ammo belt came from an Eduard set pre-painted etched brass set of ammo for a German aircraft.



The early pattern headlight assemblies were scratchbuilt from plastic card and rod. To create the headlight lenses, two part epoxy glue was mixed up then 'blobbed' onto the pre-painted headlights.

model was then detail painted using various Vallejo and Lifecolor acrylics and the metallic scratches were added using Games workshop's excellent Chain Mail.

The last step was to apply some of the characteristic Vietnam red dust. I know this red soil didn't cover the whole country by any means, but I think it has become almost mandatory on any vehicle modelled from this conflict. I mixed up Mig Productions Light Rust (P024) and African Earth (P038); I used these as I had run out of the proper Vietnam Earth (P031), so in the words of my hero "Doh"! These were applied dry to the upper hull and turret and wet, with the aid of Pigment Fixer (P249).

CONCLUSION

I really enjoyed this project; I got to build one of my favourite vehicles without having to bury myself in superdetailing, as I would have building the 1:35 Tamiya version. With hindsight and if I were to start this project again, I would have definitely tracked down the Italeri Vietnam M48 and used the sand bag armour set from Legend Productions (LF7204), which gives you just the sand bags and a stack of stowage. The sand bags are better sculpted and look more realistic for 1:72 scale. And the M48 includes all the bits I have had to get from the spares box or scratchbuild, well as they say, 'live and learn'. ■

LEGEND SET

An alternative turret sand bag for the M48 is produced by Legend Productions and is available from Friendship Models in the UK.

Modelspec

Revell M48 A2GA2, A2, A2C, A5 **Kit No.03170**

Materials

M-48A1/A2 Vietnam War sand-bags protection
Item No. 7240

Paints used

Vallejo US Olive Drab (889), Military Green (975)
Citadel Foundation's Gretchin Green
Games workshop's Chain Mail
Light Rust (P024), African Earth (P038
Pigment Fixer (P249)
Mr Surfacer 500

✓ Value for money 6 in 1 kit from Revell.

✗ Overscale texture on sand bags and the simplified wheels and tracks in the Revell kit.

Available from

Revell - All good model shops Worldwide.
Goffy - www.goffymodel.czweb.org

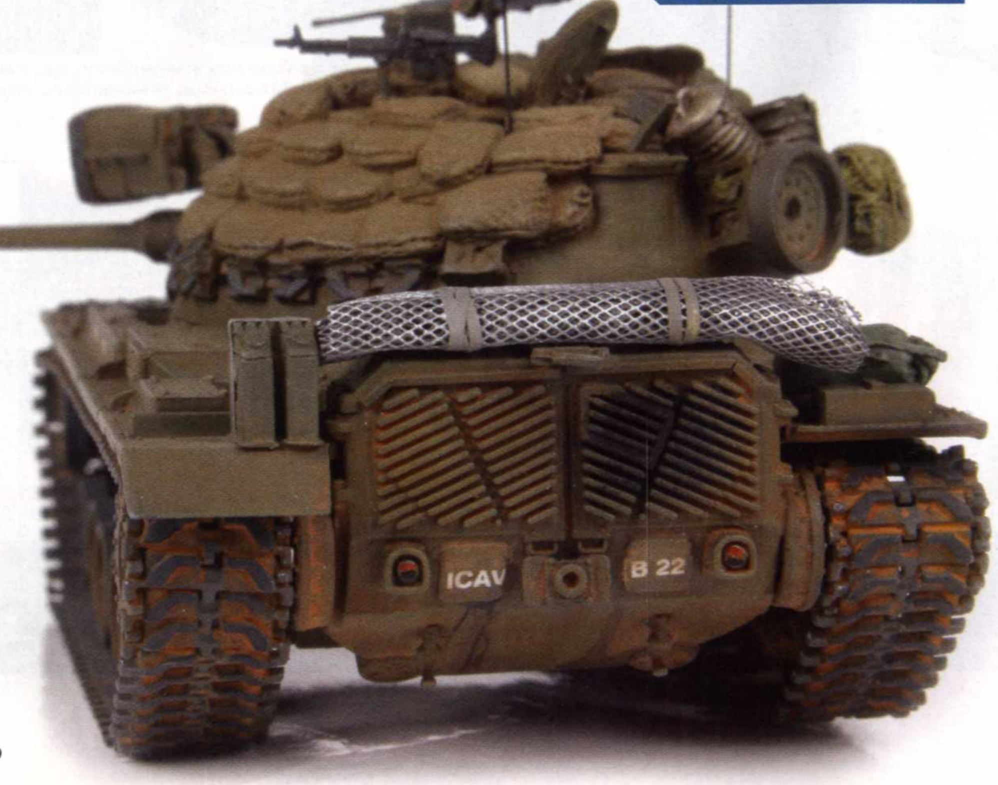
Rating

Revell M48 - 7.5/10
Goffy set - 8.5/10

This photo taken during the Vietnam War shows a damaged fender being removed with a cutting torch. When a damaged fender started to foul the tracks, this was the easiest way to remove the offending part. Note also the .50 cal ammo boxes stowed on both front fenders.

This photo of a AN/VSS-I xenon searchlight fitted to the M60 on display at Bovington Tank Museum offers some useful details, such as the circular vent on the top edge of the side and the way the searchlight is mounted onto the mantlet. Basically it mounts onto three balls, the same as a caravan's tow hitch.

A roll of chain-link fencing was often carried on the engine decks of M48s. These fences were erected overnight around the tank to protect against RPG attacks by the VC or NVA.



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STUCCO'D STUG

Pete Usher wastes no time getting stuck straight into Dragon's brand new Sturmhaubitze 42 Ausf. G featuring the ultra realistic moulded-on zimmerit.

In the last issue of MMI, Graeme Carruthers got a chance to preview this new StuG III from Dragon where he gave it a highly recommended review, but as with any kit that gets a preview, you won't get the full story until you actually start assembling it.

The first thing I wanted to see for myself was the much talked about moulded-on zimmerit, and in a word, 'stunning'. Dragon have excelled themselves, approx 80% of the StuG carries the superfine waffle-effect zimmerit even on the lower hull sides. Without being privy to Dragon's tooling techniques, I would guess the way it has been so faithfully reproduced, was that someone had to actually apply modelling putty and stamp in the pattern using a waffle pattern tool, then these master parts were 3D rendered. I can't see it being done any other way, because when you look at the parts closely the thickness and neatness of the coating varies from panel to panel, exactly like the real thing.

KIT CONSTRUCTION

The kit follows all the usual sequences starting with the lower hull and running gear. The individual torsion bar suspension is provided and the road wheels carry the manufacturer's name. One area that I thought needed some extra work was the exhaust shield even though it featured tapered edges, they were just too thick. Once they had been thinned out I added some damage, making them look much more realistic. Moving onto the upper hull, assembly starts with the track guards. The first bits of brass now come into play and these are the strengthening fillets on the top of the tubular mudguard supports. The upper hull moulding includes some nice touches, such as accurate weld seams and bolt head detail, as is a small lug that sticks out from the machine gunner shield that retains the loader's hatch when in the open position. However, some small parts have been incorrectly numbered on the instructions, these were parts G27/28, which are the wrong way around and G30/LHS is shown upside down. The lifting eyes on the side of the superstructure are not sequenced and just appear on the model without any mention, thankfully they are easy enough to find on the sprue.

FITTING THE HALVES

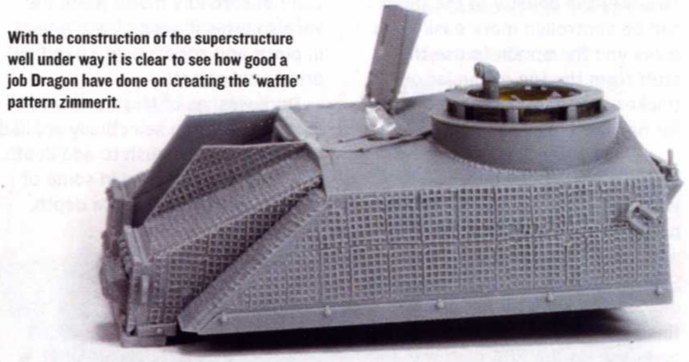
This was the only area on the kit I had a problem fitting together so I removed the location lugs on the lower hull and this seemed to sort out the problem. I also sprayed between the tracks and the track guards with Vallejo Black Grey, as this area can be hard to get into once the upper and lower hulls are glued together.

PAINTING

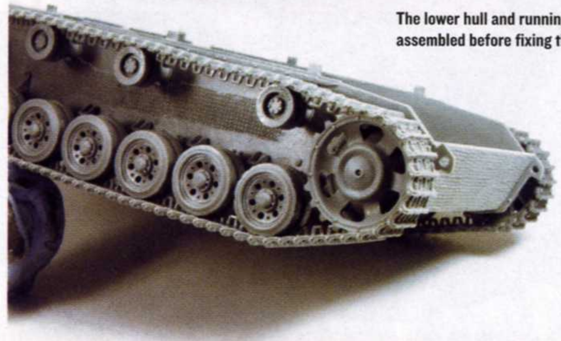
Looking through the reference books I had on the StuG III, the camouflage painting of the actual vehicle seemed to come in many forms. Lots seemed to have been left in their dark yellow base colour, but one did catch my eye, which was almost completely green with only a tiny amount of the base yellow showing through. I liked the idea of this scheme, but to make it a little more interesting, I decided to paint the side skirts in a different scheme as if they had been taken from another vehicle.

As with all my kits, a base coat of Halford's White Plastic Primer was sprayed over the entire model before adding the camouflage colours. This Primer offers an excellent surface for the Vallejo acrylics to adhere to. For the dark yellow base colour, I used a mix of Vallejo Dark Yellow with a little Sand Yellow added. Most of this colour would be covered with the green anyway, but it was essential to work this colour over the entire model to cover the primer.

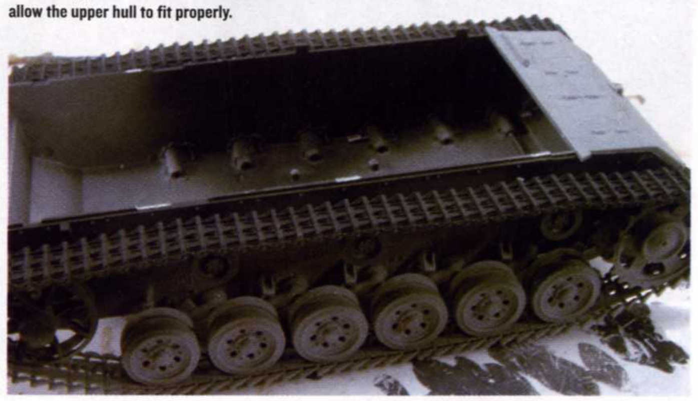
As I have said, the StuG I was copying had a very heavy green camouflage pattern. To replicate this I used Vallejo Camouflage Green with a little of the base yellow added to lessen the contrast between the two colours for a more 'in scale' effect. With the airbrush set between 15 and 18 psi, I moved the airbrush in and back ▶



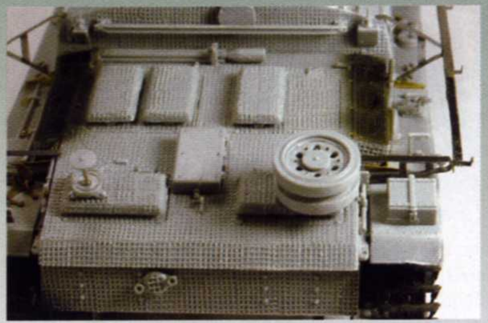
With the construction of the superstructure well under way it is clear to see how good a job Dragon have done on creating the 'waffle' pattern zimmerit.



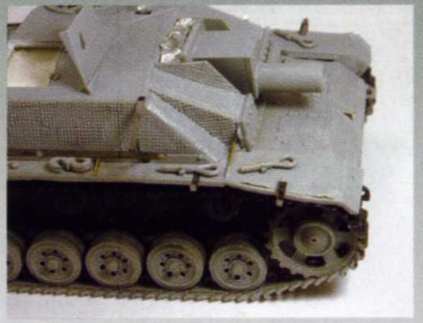
The lower hull and running gear were fully assembled before fixing the upper hull in place.



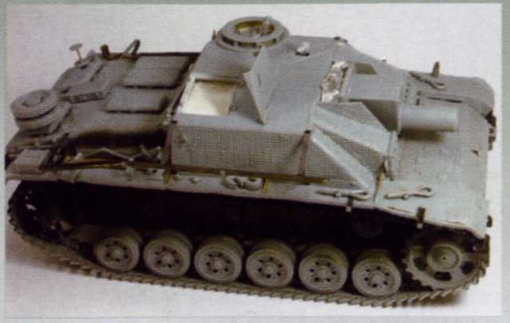
The top run of the tracks have received a coat of Vallejo Black Grey prior to fixing the upper hull in place as they will be impossible to paint once the upper hull is fitted. Note the tabs that have been cut off to allow the upper hull to fit properly.



This shot of the engine deck shows the zimmerit off to good effect. To add this from modelling putty would certainly take quite a time and a lot of practice.



The author added some battle damage to the fenders to give the impression the vehicle is not fresh from the factory, but has seen some action.



The StuG is now ready for a coat of paint. Note that the intake louvers have been painted with Black Grey, doing this stops any unpainted plastic being visible on the finished model.

from the model's surface, whilst keeping flow the same to vary the intensity of the green.

The kit was left to stand for 24 hours before a coat of Mig's Brown for Dark Green Filter (P245) was applied. As a rule these filters need a good shake to get the paint pigment and thinner mixed thoroughly, but what I did this time was give it only a gentle shake, so as to only agitate some of the pigment and the remainder staying at the bottom of the jar. This way the density of the filter can be controlled more easily and gives you the option to use thin stuff from the top of the jar or the thicker pigment from the bottom for heavier applications.

LOWER HULL AND RUNNING GEAR

With the upper-hull paintwork pretty much completed I started work on the lower hull. As the StuG was to be in an early autumn diorama setting, I wanted the finish to contain lots of dry mud and dust, so the first step was to apply a fairly solid coat of Tamiya Khaki to the lower hull, tracks and suspension before carefully brush painting the rubber tyres with heavily thinned Vallejo Black Grey. When the paint had completely dried, Mig Pigments European Dust was stippled on.

Areas where I wanted a heavier mud built up were first brush painted with Humbol Matt Varnish before more pigment was worked into the, still wet varnish. More pigment is added until the varnish can't absorb any more, when the varnish dries it keeps the pigment in place and adds a nice 'caked-on' dried mud effect.

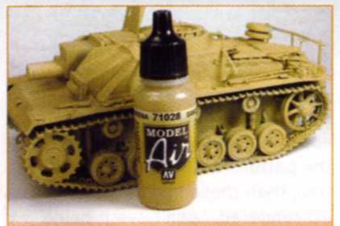
Dark washes of Mig Abteilung oil colour were then selectively applied using a medium brush to add depth behind the wheels and in some of the recesses to add extra depth.

GROUNDWORK

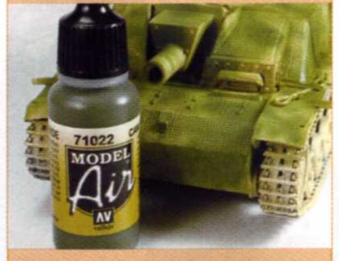
Before I get to the end of the painting process I have usually got my mind on my next project, but as we all know models look better on a diorama, so I have realised it's best if I start on the figures and groundwork very early on in the build, that way when the model is finished, I only need to add the finishing touches to complete the whole scene.

I was lucky with this project as I had an old StuG to play around with. The base started life as a picture frame (a cheap and effective way to start a diorama).

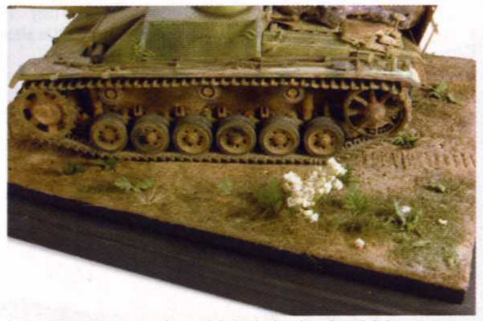
Two polystyrene tiles were cut to fit in the hole (where the picture should go). To level the base, filler was mixed and poured quite thinly over the tile, then before this had dried fully, watered down PVA glue was brushed over and fine sand and grit was sieved on to add a little texture to the ground work. Once dry, troughs were cut into the plaster the same width of the tracks so the vehicle would sit naturally in the base and not on it! Static grass from the Games Workshop was sprinkled over PVA with some old paintbrush hairs to make the grass look more irregular and natural.



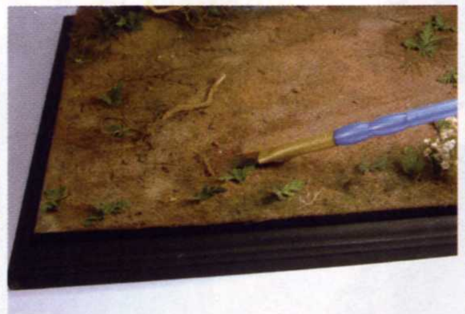
After a base coat of Halford's White Plastic Primer the model was then airbrushed in a mix of Vallejo's Model Color Dark Yellow with a little Sand Yellow added.



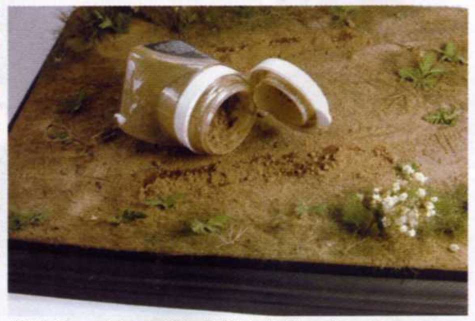
The next step was to add the green camouflage colour, and as the author mentions in the main article, the vehicle he was inspired to copy had a very heavy coat of green which virtually covered the base yellow.



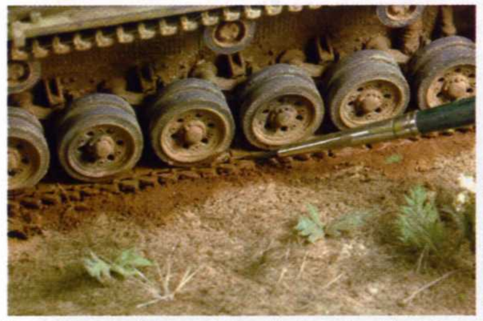
In this view we can see the model sits 'on' rather than 'in' the groundwork. This is because the diorama was made as the model was still being assembled.



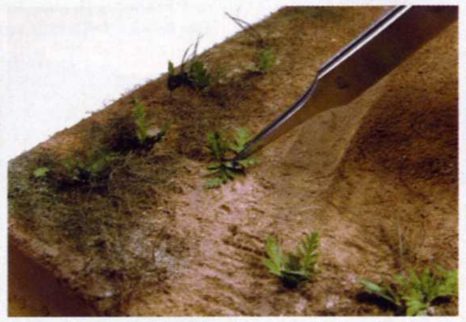
To get the 'sat in' look, the first step was to brush paint Humbrol Matt Varnish into the two troughs where the tracks will sit.



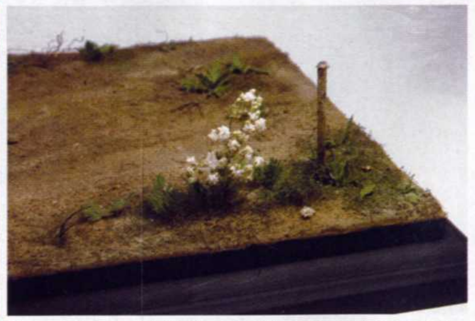
While the varnish was still wet Mig Productions pigment was sprinkled over the varnish until the varnish had been fully absorbed.



The model was then lightly pressed into the pigment/varnish mix. A brush was then used to remove the excess, especially where it oozes up between the holes at the ends of each track link.



The small plants used were taken from the author's garden. The leaves were super glued in position then dusted over with some of the pigments.



The small flowers added to the edge of the scene add that splash of colour as well as helping to convey the summer time scene, when the flora is in bloom.

PAINTING THE SCENE

With the pressure at 25 psi a solid coat of XF-52 Flat Earth was sprayed over the ground. The grass was sprayed in various shades of green, before a final dry-brushing with Humbrol Matt 63. A hole was drilled to take the dead tree, which was an old tree root found in my local park when a tree blew over during the winter storms. Another hole was drilled on the opposite side of the base to take a second tree, but I didn't want to set it in place just now, as I needed to fix the StuG in position first, I just marked it with a cocktail stick so as not to fill it in with the following applications of pigment.

To give the earth a dustier look, I worked Mig Pigments Beach Sand, European Dust and Dark Mud randomly around the ground work including the area under where the StuG will be (an area not to be forgotten!). The small plants used were from my garden - I think it's some kind of weed, but looks great as 1:35 scale vegetation. The leaves were super glued into position then dusted over with some of the pigments.

FIXING THE TANK

This idea came to me from the way of applying dried mud using varnish and pigment. The principle is the same, just fill the troughs cut into the plaster with varnish, then carefully tip pigment in straight from the bottle. When the varnish has been full absorbed by the pigment the StuG was then gently pushed into the two troughs containing the soft powder, once this sets, it's like concrete, giving the vehicle a nice weighty look, instead of looking like it's floating on the base.

TREEMENDUS TREES

The 'living' tree on the dio is from a company called Treemendus who make by far the best trees I've seen on the market to date. Treemendus also make a great selection of greenery and other useful diorama accessories. Treemendus make both pre-made trees as I have used here and also tree kits, which I will be reviewing soon. The living tree was super glued in before finally adding some small branches stuck onto both the StuG and ground.

FIGURES

The figures started life as Dragon 1:35 Gebirgsjager - German Mountain Troops (DML6345) with a little conversion and some Hornet heads. They looked natural on the rear of the tank ducking for cover as the bullets whizzed overhead in an attack.

I went about painting in a very different way to normal.

For the camouflage pattern uniforms I used the amazing Meister Chronicle waterslide Oakleaf Spring A camouflage decals, the pattern come on a large sheet and have to be carefully cut to size, which took some doing. The were coaxed into place with some Daco Strong setting solution and I must admit I was pretty impressed with the final results. Final painting was completed using a combination of enamels and oil paints. ■

Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 scale '39-'45 series 10.5 cm Sturmhaubitze 42 Ausf. G with zimmerit Kit No. 6454

Items used

Dragon 1:35 Gebirgsjager - German Mountain Troops (DML6345)
Meister Chronicle SS Oakleaf Spring A camouflage decals Item No. MC004

Paints used

Vallejo Model Air Camouflage Green 022, Black Grey 056, Dark Yellow 025, Sand Yellow 28.
Tamiya XF-52 Flat Earth, XF-49 Khaki, X-22 Clear.
Humbrol Matt Tank Grey 67, Matt Varnish 49.
Vallejo 71.016 US Dark Green, 71.028 Sand Yellow, 71.056 Black Grey
520 matt varnishes

Weathering materials

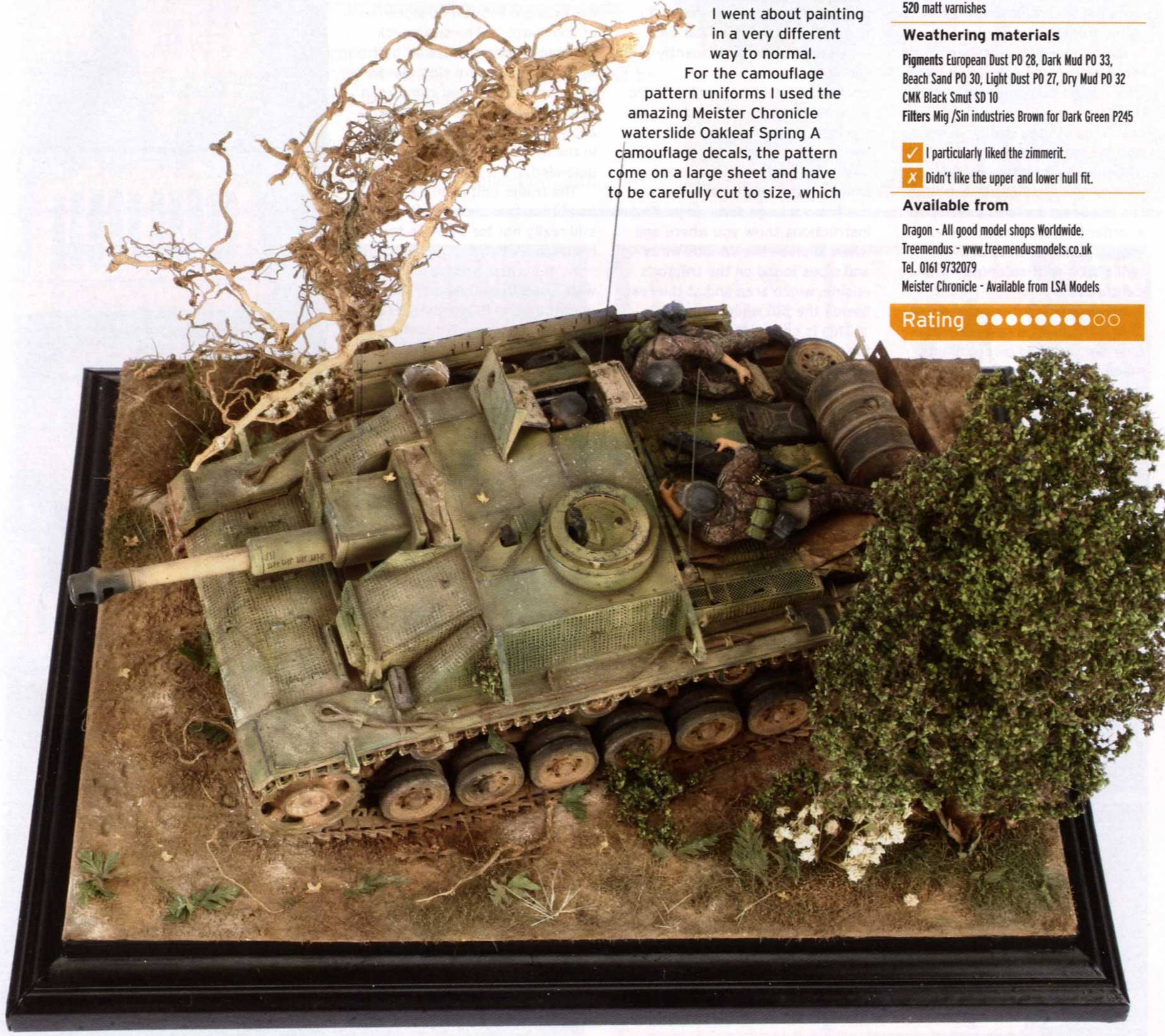
Pigments European Dust PO 28, Dark Mud PO 33, Beach Sand PO 30, Light Dust PO 27, Dry Mud PO 32
CMK Black Smut SD 10
Filters Mig /Sin industries Brown for Dark Green P245

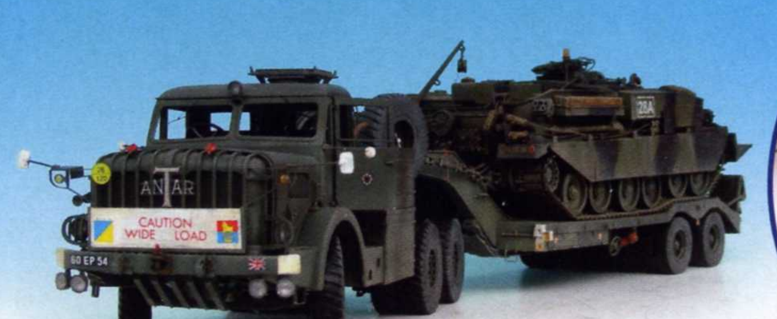
✓ I particularly liked the zimmerit.
✗ Didn't like the upper and lower hull fit.

Available from

Dragon - All good model shops Worldwide.
Treemendus - www.treemendusmodels.co.uk
Tel. 0161 9732079
Meister Chronicle - Available from LSA Models

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○





MIGHTY MOVER

Accurate Armour's Mighty Antar Tank Transporter gets a mighty good previewing by **Graeme Carruthers.**

Those who paid a visit to Accurate Armour's stand at Euro this year couldn't have failed to notice this large beast of a kit sitting proudly at the front of the display.

Even though the sets are technically two separate kits, and they can be bought separately, they are designed to go together and complete the British Army's post war tank transporter. Designed as a replacement for the wartime Diamond T, the Antar is a big beast and was developed in order to transport the new, heavier generation of British tanks such as the Conqueror and Centurion.

The Antar Tractor consists of over two hundred resin pieces, over sixty etched pieces, lights made from clear, red and yellow resin, various pieces of wire and rubber tubing and a full colour decal sheet. The main chassis is cast in a single piece and for such a large piece of resin my example was straight and true. All the suspension units, large detailed engine, cab and rear fittings fit onto this and the annotated colour photographic instructions should make this complex looking model an easy to follow affair. The front wheels can be positioned at any steered angle of your choosing and the rear suspension units are designed to have a small amount of movement that will allow you to position the wheels flat on a surface before permanently gluing in place.

The cab interior is well detailed with separate doors, which allow the interior to be shown off to the full. The front of the bonnet has its distinctive grille made from separate etch parts, as is the famous large Antar logo. The instructions show you where and when to place the various wires and pipes found on the tractor's engine, winch area and at the rear beside the 5th wheel.

This is certainly not a model for a resin novice but with careful modelling this well designed and highly detailed kit will build up into an impressive looking large vehicle.

The 50 ton trailer unit comes in over a hundred resin pieces, around fifty etched pieces, red yellow and clear resin pieces for the light fittings and a decal sheet. This model is a simpler affair than the tractor unit consisting of a large trailer bed with a separate swan neck, sixteen large wheels with their bogie units and all the small fittings.

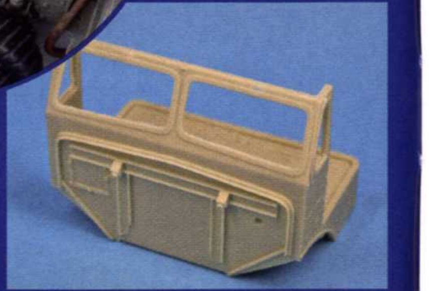
The main trailer bed is a large, long piece of resin which my example showed no signs of any warping. The swan neck fits snugly onto this trailer bed without glue, a sure sign of a well-made model. The rear ramps can be positioned either up or down allowing you to represent a tank in the action of being loaded or unloaded.

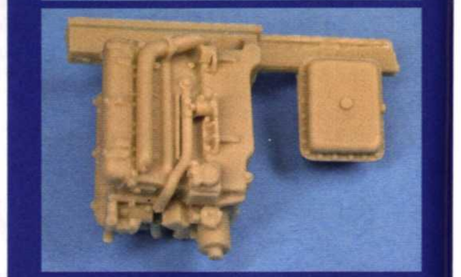
The trailer unit is an easier build than the tractor unit but is still really not for a novice to cut his resin teeth on.

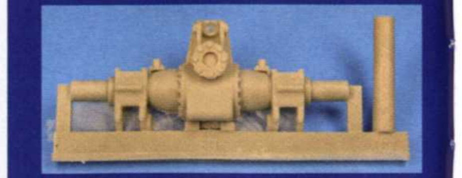
As the Antar and trailer unit were used from the early 1950s until the early 1980s there is a lot of scope for ways to model the vehicle. If you have one of AFV Club's recent Centurion kits and are looking for something different to do with it, then this is an excellent albeit expensive solution to your diorama problem.

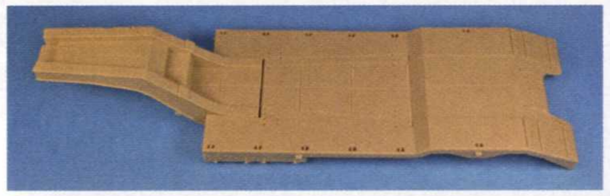
High recommended. ■

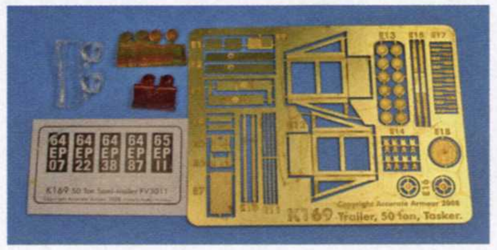
Available from
www.accurate-armour-com

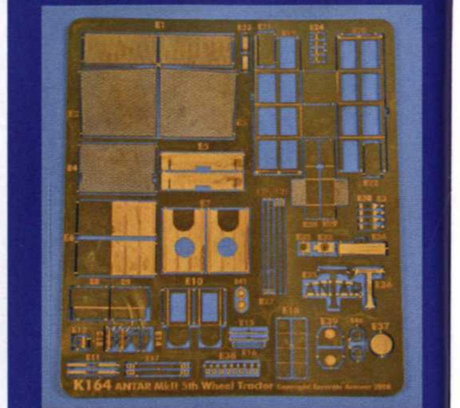












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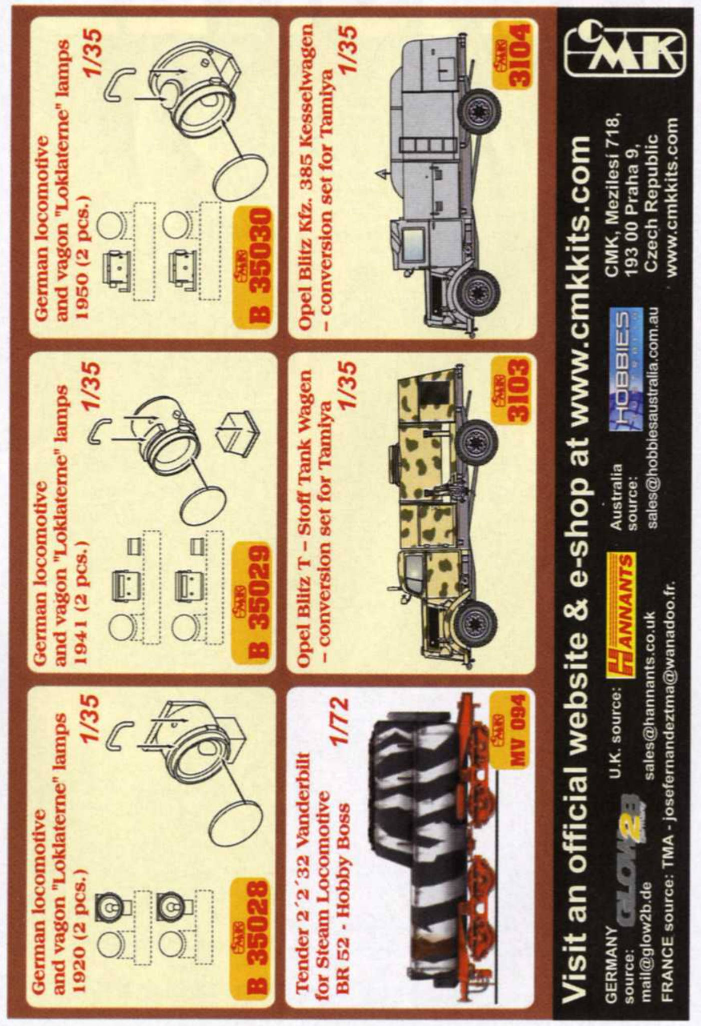

German locomotive and vagon "Loklaterne" lamps 1920 (2 pcs.) 1/35
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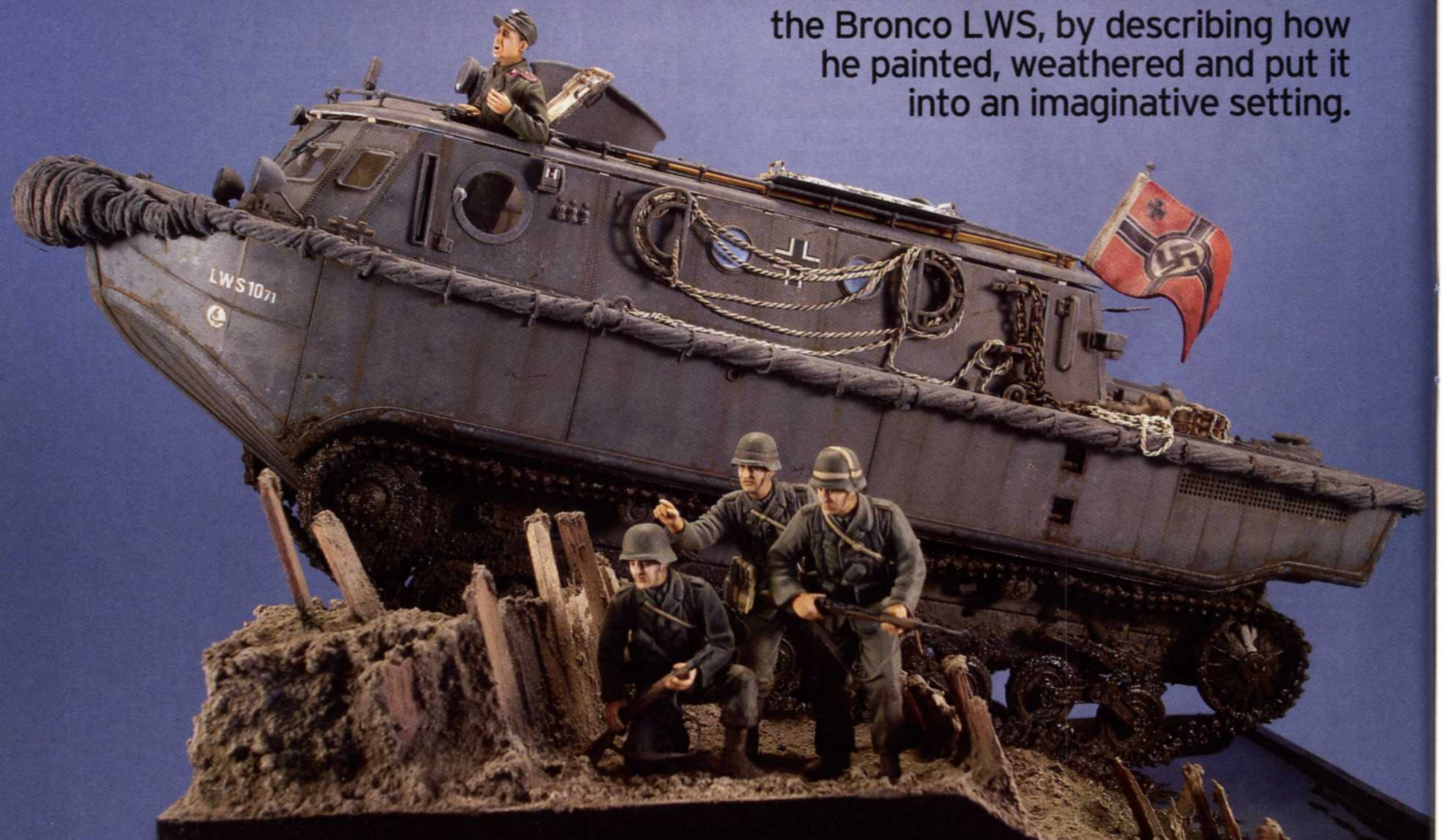
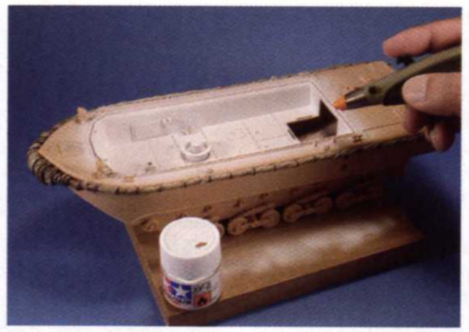
Part 2

TRACKED TUGBOAT

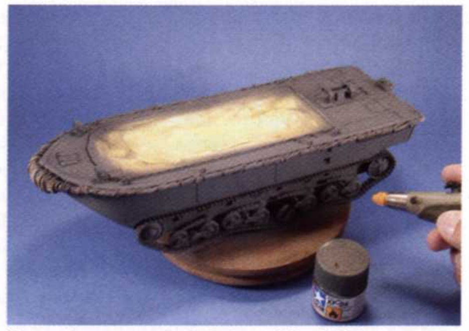
José Brito concludes his article on the Bronco LWS, by describing how he painted, weathered and put it into an imaginative setting.



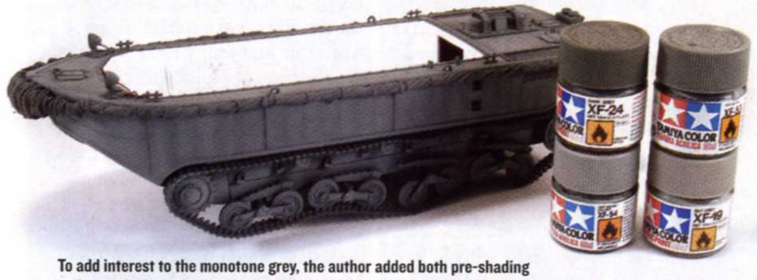
Some vinyl tyres from the spares box were 'ruffed up' with a sanding wheel, these were to be used as bumpers. In the end the author chose not to use them.



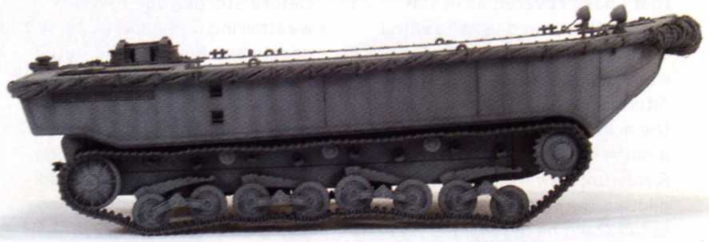
The interior surfaces of the LWS were airbrushed in thin layers of Tamiya Flat White thinned with Tamiya's own thinners.



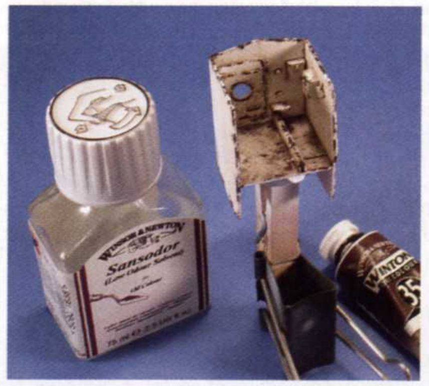
The exterior was sprayed with Tamiya Dark Grey XF-24 using an Aztek A470 airbrush.



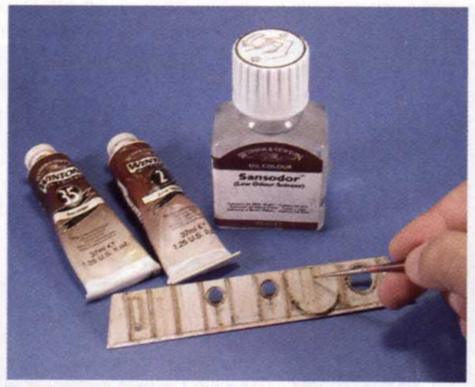
To add interest to the monotone grey, the author added both pre-shading and post shading with Tamiya Dark Grey, Medium Grey, Sky Grey and Dark Sea Grey. Doing this really adds interest to the basic colour.



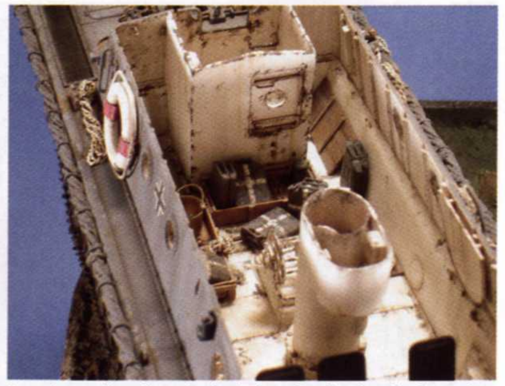
From this side on photo the pre-shading can be seen to full advantage. This can be achieved by either adding a darker shade to the base colour and tracing the edges of panels etc., or by adding a lighter tone, fill in the middle of the panels etc.



The numerous scratches were added using Vallejo SS Camo Black Brown; adding colour washes to accentuate the detail followed this.



Vertical washes using Winsor & Newton's Raw Umber and Burnt Sienna, this was to simulate subtle rust streaking.



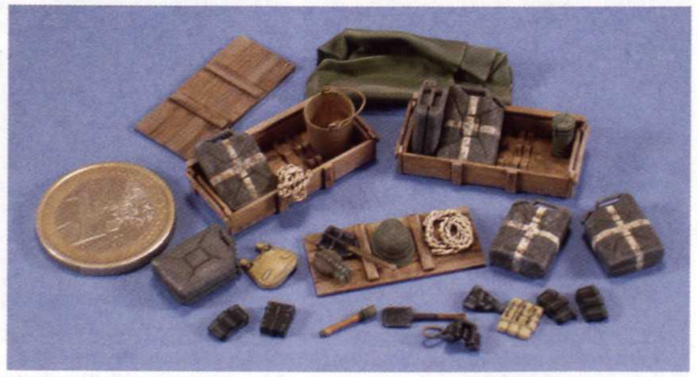
As can be seen here the author has had to paint a lot of smaller items of stowage and personal equipment. One of the secrets to producing a great model is that even the smallest items are painted with the same care and attention as the vehicle itself.

Last month I covered the construction of Bronco's Land-Wasser-Schlepper and now with the building complete, I will cover the painting process and how I constructed the small base for it to live on. I must admit my favourite part of any model is the painting, as this is when you get to personalise the model and express your creativity, even on a vehicle such as the LWS, which is to be painted in, what is considered a boring scheme – panzer grey! Even on a monotone scheme such as this, painting can still be fun and I think more of a challenge than say on a multi colour camouflage pattern, which by its nature is naturally more interesting to the eye. I used an Aztek 470 airbrush fitted with the orange .7mm medium nozzle for all of the airbrush painting, I find the medium nozzle is a great all rounder, as I can get very thin lines right up to broad bands, perfect for applying the undercoats. I started with the interior of the cabin including the floor, bulkheads and ceiling, which were all painted in Tamiya Flat White XF-2. The white was airbrushed using several diluted layers to keep from flooding the fine surface detail with paint. Once all the white parts had dried fully, they were masked off using Tamiya masking tape before starting work on the exterior. The exterior parts were airbrushed with a base Tamiya Dark Grey XF-24 before adding both post and pre-shading using Tamiya XF-53 and XF-19. Once again these colours were applied in very thin coats, so as not to lose any of the fine surface details, which incidentally Bronco have done such a good job producing. During the painting process the parts were test fitted several times to make sure the 'pre' and 'post' shading I had applied to all the separate parts matched up once the model was fully assembled.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING

With all the interior and exterior parts fully dry it was time for my favourite step of the painting process, the weathering and finishing. I started with all the interior parts, which had been painted white. With the help of a good quality and very fine tipped brush, I painted hundreds of tiny scratches using Vallejo Acrylic SS Camo Black Brown 822. When applying the scratches please bear in mind the scale of the model that is being worked on. They must be 'in scale' and in the logical places, which would receive the most wear and tear. It is important that the scratches look natural and not rushed by the modeller, in reality

▶



The hundreds of tiny scratches and the subtle colour washes can be seen to good effect. Note how the areas of 'extreme wear' have been kept to the areas which receive the most crew movement.

these scratches and chips would happen at different times over the course of the vehicle's life, this is why it is best to add them all over a few painting sessions and vary the colours and tones slightly each time. This step is a very time consuming one, but one that I really enjoy doing, as I think it really starts to add interest and bring the model to life.

FILTERS / WASHES

Once I am totally happy with the way all the scratches look and that I have covered all of the areas I think need dealing with I will move to the next step in the weathering process, adding the filters and colour washes. For the areas painted in white I used a much-diluted wash of Winsor & Newton Raw Umber, heavily diluting the wash meant that all the detail could be highlighted without looking forced and unrealistic. On some of the parts I applied the Raw Umber in vertical lines to represent the subtle rust stains caused by the combination wet conditions these machines operate in and scratches and chips which have exposed bare metal, which in no time would start to rust. I also added some small dots of Winsor & Newton Burnt Sienna to represent those small rust stains that appear on the surface where the metal behind the paint has started to corrode, but the actual paint finish hasn't been damaged.

DECALS AND EXTERIOR WEATHERING

Before starting the exterior weathering, I needed to apply the decals and finish all the detail painting. In the areas where the decals will be placed I brush painted on Johnson's Klear and once this had dried the decals were set in place with the aid of Microscale's Micro-Set and Micro-Sol. This was the first time I have had chance to use Bronco's waterslide decals and to be honest I was a little apprehensive, not knowing for sure if they were any good and how well they would react to my setting solutions. In the end, the decals went on really well and were in fact very good, they responded well to the Microscale products, and once dry, the clear carrier film was totally invisible.

Some details, such as the wooden parts of the pioneer tools were first painted with Vallejo Acrylic Green Ochre 914 followed by Winsor & Newton's Burnt Sienna.

The exterior, like the interior received hundreds of small scratches and for these scratches I chose to use Vallejo's Model Color German WW2 Luftwaffe Blue 816, again using a very fine pointed paintbrush.

With the decals in place and all the details and scratches painted, it was time to add the washes and filters. For these I used Winsor & Newton oils, Burnt Sienna, Lamp Black, Naples Yellow Hue and Raw Umber. These were all diluted with Winsor & Newton's own low odour solvent called 'Sansodor' and applied as pin washes into the recessed areas and around all of the raised details. As with the interior I added some vertical streaks to represent rain marks and rust staining. When adding these washes it is best to do them over several sessions, leaving a day or so between each to allow the oil paints time to dry fully before applying the next, otherwise the solvent used for the next effect can accidentally remove the previous one, spoiling all the work done earlier. Together these steps really bring the model to life and add that war weary and distressed look.

FIGURES

The infantry figures came from the Dragon set; German Infantry (Ukraine, Summer 1943) set number 6153. The commander figure also came from Dragon "Achtung – Jabo!" Panzer crew France 1944, (6191). He received a new head from the Warriors range. I wanted to represent a stressed look. According to several sources the LWS never saw too much action and were only used to cross calm rivers and lakes. But the Eastern Front was hell on earth for both men and machine; the soldiers were battle weary, worn out and many near nervous breakdown. My idea was to represent a river crossing, where a small reconnaissance party had just disembarked from their LWS and were cautiously surveying the landscape, my idea was that they had spotted something in the distance, which has caused them to crouch down and look pretty worried. I made a test composition with four figures on the ground, but in the end I decided to use only three figures, the forth one just didn't fit the final look I had in mind.

The figures were primed with Tamiya XF-15 Flat Flesh sprayed through my Aztek airbrush. As usual I painted the figure's uniform and equipment in Vallejo acrylics and the flesh areas with oils over the base coat of Tamiya Flat Flesh.

The infantry figures received some dirt and mud on their boots and trousers, for this I mixed a concoction of pastel chalks, Mig Productions pigments, Talens Amsterdam Acrylic Medium Matt and Tamiya X-20A Thinners, this paste was then applied with a fine brush, the colours were varied on each layer to add depth and visual interest.

I am a real fan of Dragon's range of figures, especially the latest Gen 2 sets, I think they offer outstanding value for money, the only down side being the faces all look very similar and could do with looking more individual and feature varied expressions. Otherwise the figures are great and very accurate. In fact a delight to build and paint.

BASE AND DIORAMA

I like to display my models on a small base with some groundwork; I think this helps to complete the story. For the LWS I felt it had to have some water in the scene to highlight its amphibious capabilities.

The basic construction consisted of a wooden base with balsa wood surrounds and the interior is filled with oasis foam from a florist's shop. This foam is cheap to purchase, easy to cut and very lightweight. I like compact bases with the model almost hanging off the edges. Small strips of basswood were used to represent some rudimentary retaining walls, which also doubled as a form of anti-tank obstacle.

For the terrain I used a mix of Robbialac Aguaplast, acrylic paint, fine sand and water. Robbialac Aguaplast is a filler used in civil construction and home improvement; the equivalent in the UK would be something like Polyfilla. Once all these materials have been mixed together it looks like chocolate mousse, this mix can then be applied with the help of a medium flat brush. Once dry it looks very realistic, it also dries rock hard.

With the 'mud' fully set, the

Originally the author planned to have four figures in the reconnaissance party, but ended up just using three as the forth didn't contribute to the feeling of the scene.

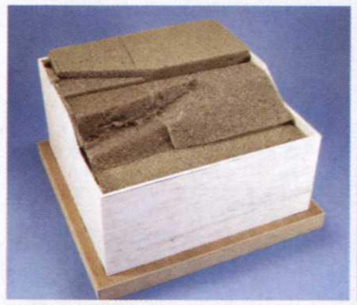
The figures were first primed using Tamiya's Flat Flesh XF-15; this colour is obviously the perfect undercoat for the flesh areas, but also a nice neutral tone for the uniform colours to go on top of.

The base colours are all in place now. Vallejo Model Color acrylics were used for this as they brush paint very well and offer an excellent range of colours.

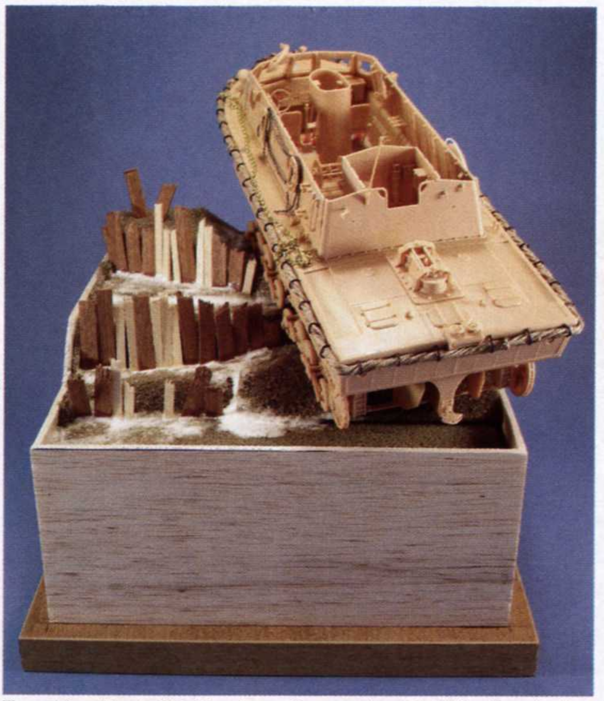
The figure has now received highlights and shadows to his uniform and equipment, the flesh areas have also received a wash and dry brushing from oil paints.

The LWS Commander figure came from the Dragon 'Achtung Jabo' Panzer crew set. His head was swapped for a resin item from the Warriors range, which had an expression better suited to the scene.

The diorama base was made from a simple wooden base with balsa wood forming the box for the groundwork. The balsa wood was stuck together using superglue. For an excellent range of cheap diorama and model bases go to www.just-bases.co.uk



The 'box' was filled with oasis foam; this lightweight material used in flower arranging is perfect for building up groundwork.



The model was then test fitted to make sure the suspension of the LWS conformed to the shape of the groundwork. Basswood shore defences were also put in place at this time and fixed using PVA wood glue.

The materials used to make the soil, DIY wall filler, fine sand, water and black and brown acrylic paint. These were all mixed together to make a paste, which can be brushed onto the groundwork.

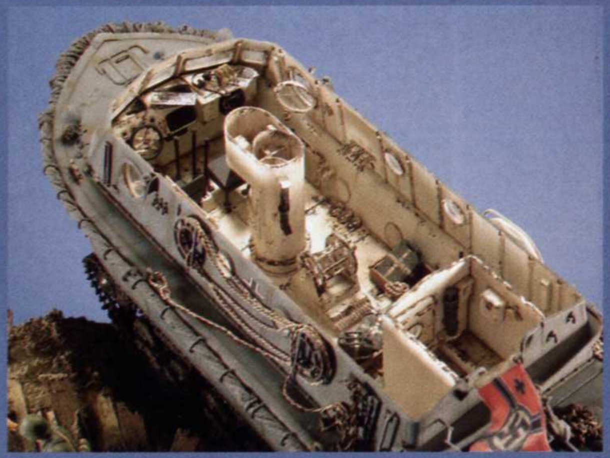
The soil mix is being applied to the base. Note the two deep troughs for the tracks to sit in, this will help give the impression of weight as the LWS climbs up over the wet riverbank.

Here we can see all the mud in place and how realistic it already looks. If you want to create wet mud, gloss acrylic varnish can be added to the mix.

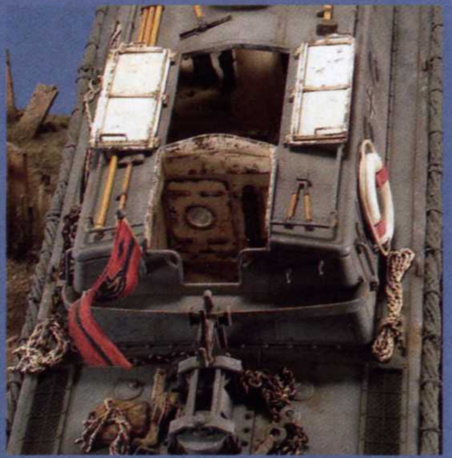
Once the mud had dried fully the author sprayed it in various Tamiya acrylics before a final dry brushing with oil paints. Note that the area, which will form the water, has been sprayed in tones of green, this will give the impression of depth to the water.

Vallejo Still Water is the chosen medium for adding the water. The author really rates this product as it is easy to use and offers consistently good results. The Solid Water dries to a rock hard and crystal clear finish.

Whilst the Solid Water is drying, which takes about 24 hours, it is best to cover it completely to prevent dust settling on the water while it is still tacky and ruining the effect.



Thankfully due to Bronco's clever tooling the roof can be left un-glued, this allows the interior to be shown off to good effect.



Even if the roof is permanently attached all the interior detail won't be lost, thanks to the large hatches and numerous port-holes.

next step was to give it a gentle dry-brushing with oils. The colours were mainly brown tones mixed together. The idea was to enhance and highlight all the textures and surface details.

The last thing to do was to add the water and for this I used Vallejo's Acrylics 26230 Still Water, this is a great product and one I can trust will work perfectly every time. This water is really easy to work with and the results are amazing. If we want to reproduce a lake or calm water this is the right stuff. Just pour on thin layers (about 1mm) and leave it to dry 24 hours. Then repeat the process until you get the desired effect. It dries to a rock hard and crystal clear finish. If you want a muddy look or to simulate deep water you can add acrylics to the first layers.

CONCLUSION

Bronco have produced a great and very original kit and with some care during the construction can be turned into a great model.

It was a great opportunity for me to try new techniques and new approaches. The LWS was also my first amphibious vehicle model and the first Bronco kit I have built.

The LWS is an eye-catching model. It's different, original, strange and unusual and in the end was a great experience and pleasure to build this kit. ■

Modelspec

1:35 Bronco, Land-Wasser-Schlepper kit No. CB-35015

Items used

1:35 Dragon Models - German Infantry (Ukraine, Summer 1943) kit No. 6153.
1:35 Dragon Models - "Achtung - Jabo!" Panzer crew France 1944, kit No. 6191

Paints used

Vallejo acrylics 822 SS Camo Black Brown (2), 951 White, 950 Black, 893 US Dark Green, 826 Cam. Medium Brown (4), 816 German WW2 Luftwaffe Blue, 914 Green Ochre, 058 Matt Varnish.
Tamiya acrylics XF-15 Flat Flesh, XF-1 Flat Black, XF-2 Flat White, XF-19 Sky Grey, XF-51 Khaki Drab, XF-68 NATO Brown, XF-67 NATO Green, XF-59 Desert Yellow, XF-57 Buff, XF-24 Dark Grey, XF-53 Medium Grey, XF-54 Dark Sea Grey.
Talens acrylics Amsterdam Acrylic Medium 117 Matt
Pigments MIG P033 Dark Mud
Winsor & Newton Oil Colour 35 Raw Umber, 2 Burnt Sienna, 25 Lamp Black, 29 Naples Yellow Hue.

Weathering materials

Mig Productions Weathering Pigments PS030 Beach Sand, PS027 Light Dust, PS023 Black Smoke, Winsor and Newton Paynes Grey, Light Red, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber.

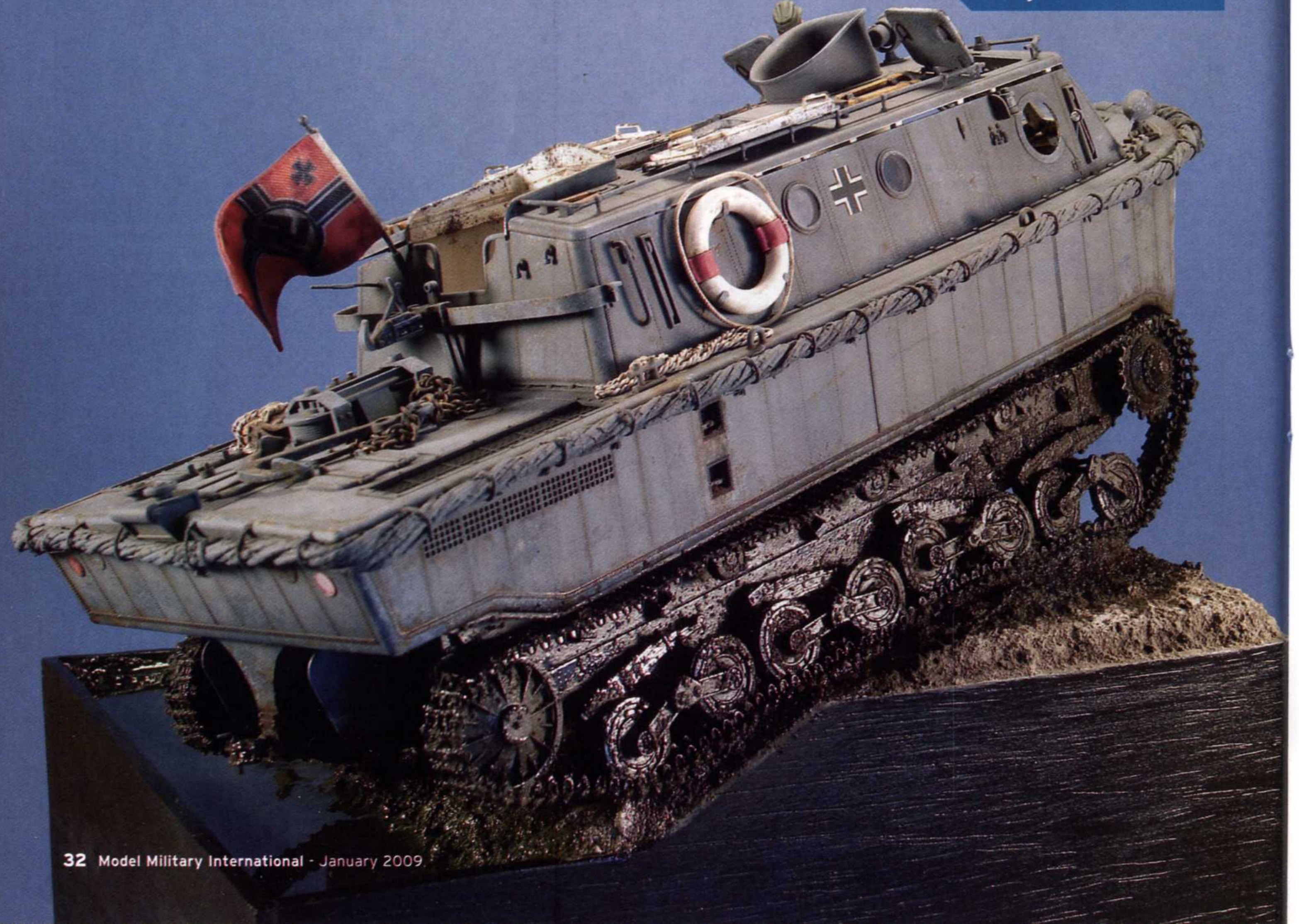
Materials used

Aguaplast - Robbialac, Fine sand, Wood glue, Oasis foam, Metallic chain, Plus Model Lead wire 0.4mm

References used

Rommel's Funnies, Darlington Productions, Inc., Thomas L. Jentz, ISBN 0-9648793-6-0

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Premium Edition
M4A3 (76)W
DRAGON

CREIGHTON'S CRUISER

Martin Dogger checks out Dragon's latest incarnation of the Sherman, the M4A3 (76)W.

For Shermaholics DML have been releasing a steady stream of new and updated kits. This latest being the M4A3 (76) W which has been released under the 'Premium Edition' banner, these are Dragon's older kits that have been updated with refined parts or sprues from newer kits. Having seen quite a few of the recent DML Sherman kits, let's see how this one compares.

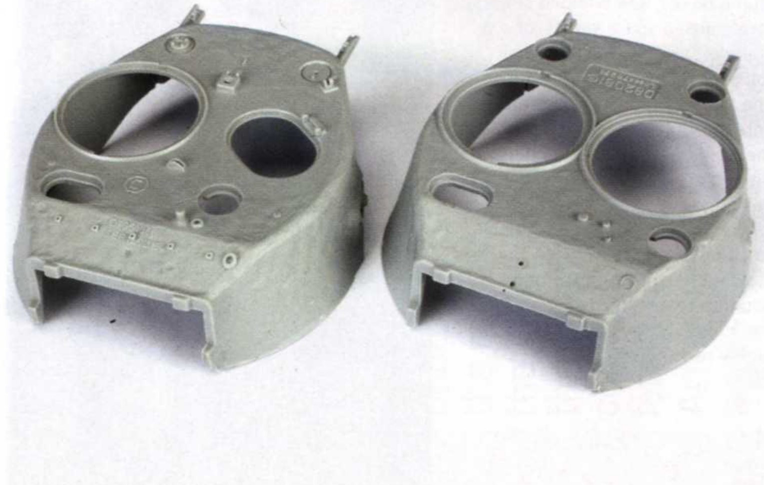
The first thing that strikes me is the box art. It's reminiscent of the M4A3 'Battle of the Bulge' kit. That kit was quite good, but there were a few niggling issues. One of the main ones was that all of the upper hull weld seams were recessed and not raised as they should be; thankfully the M4A3E8 kit settled this and this same hull is included here. Taking a look at all the updated details from front to back, you get clear headlights with photo etched guards, hatches with separate clear periscopes, hull tools and the engine deck. Watch out for the mould line that runs across the weld that joins the rear plate to the main hull, this will require careful clean up.

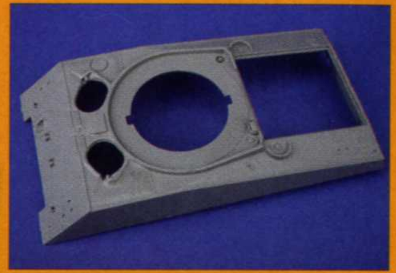
DML provide a good looking, multi layer exhaust deflector. This looks very good and is a vast improvement over the part Tamiya provide in their M4A3s. Two T23 turrets are included, an earlier version with the round loader's hatch and the later one with the oval hatch. Most of the details are separate and you can choose between three different gun barrels, all have been produced using slide mould technology. The M2 .50-cal machine gun on the turret top is a bit heavy on detail but still a lot better than some provided by other manufacturers, again, watch out for the mould line! Lastly, let's look at the lower hull, this is the usual tub. You'll have to add the rear plate to this, add mountings plates for the bogies and the transmission cover at the front. New Dragon Styrene (DS) single piece T48 tracks with extended end connectors are provided, which offer excellent detail and can be glued using normal styrene cement. I really wish DML would release their DS tracks as a separate set.

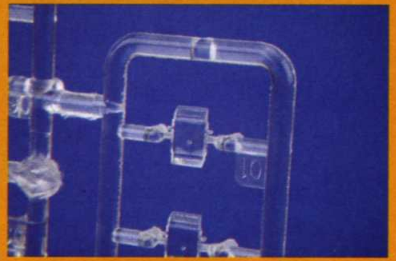
Moulding and detail is up to the usual DML standard. This means quite a few pips between the sprue runners and the parts, but thanks to this there are no unsightly ejector pin marks on any of the parts. Markings are provided for five vehicles, all in OD and two with a black camouflage pattern. These are some of the more colourful markings of the later ETO campaign. It was a bit disappointing to see the two figure sprues have been left out, and the turned aluminium barrel and turned brass rounds have gone too. These were all in the original 'BoB' kit. The rear of the upper hull still has the M4A2 grouser cover plates moulded on and these need to be removed as they are not needed on late M4A3s. The sprues with the suspension bogies and the hull tools have a lineage back to the old Italeri Sherman series. It's nice to see they have been retooled to give us for example hollowed out barrel ends for the .30cal MG, but a good look at the sprues shows that several sections are newer than others.

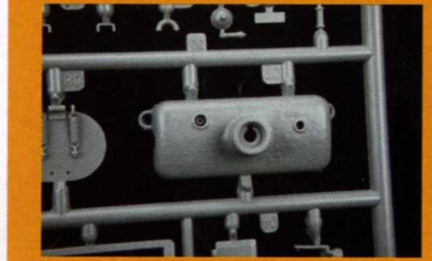
The bogies have separate skids, but these are quite thick. Mountings bolts are provided, but oddly these are not mentioned in the instructions? The front transmission cover needs tweaking to fit properly, and the side plates are too small. The Mk III 'Sicily' kit got this right, so I'm curious as to why DML did not include these parts in this version.

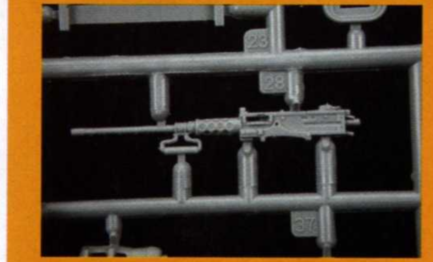
It might seem that I'm being a bit harsh about this kit. However, improving your kits, and then using older parts in newer releases is a bit puzzling to me. Nevertheless, there's a lot of good new parts and overall this is a solid kit. Recommended. ■

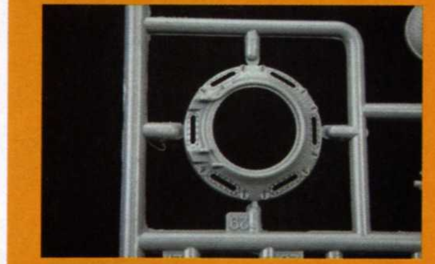












Resicast
35.2307
US Priest stowage n°1
35.1199
T16 carrier
35.2306
RA crew for T16 or Universal Carrier
35.1201
«Towed» 6pounder

Matt Edwards gets his hands on Resicast's latest carrier, the T16 and 6 pounder anti-tank gun kits, but before resin dust starts flying he gives us his initial impression on these great looking models.

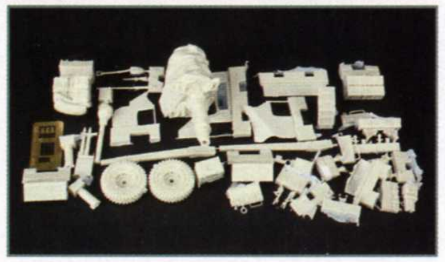
TOWING TIME

Resicast is well known for the upgrades they produce to supplement Tamiya's aging universal carrier and I have just finished building a MK II universal carrier with the help of a Resicast set and I must say it looks a thousand times better with the inclusion of the Resicast update! This time however we get a full multimedia and highly detailed model.

The T16 was the American version of the Universal Carrier. Built by Ford, the T16 saw wide spread use in commonwealth armies and was used by many anti-tank units to tow the weapons, carry ammo and provide transport for the gun crews.

Well packaged in a sturdy box with the parts contained in re-sealable bags, which in turn have all been cushioned in bubble wrap to ensure no parts get damaged in transit. All of the items are moulded in a cream coloured resin, the lower hull of the carrier has been moulded, like that of a plastic kit in one part to which all of the other kit parts are added. Also within the package is a etched brass fret containing all that one will need to produce a highly detailed model.

On opening the small bags I noticed that there is a little flash on some parts but this is easily cleaned off with an old toothbrush. Do be careful when attaching the tracks as from past experience these are very delicate items and patience will be needed or maybe that's just me. That said the detail on them is superb as it is with all of the other parts in the kit. The assembly sequence is pretty straightforward and shouldn't pose any problems as long as you follow the 13 pages of instructions and helpful photos that have been included. I am a big fan of Resicast and the models that they produce and I am glad to say that this one is no exception to the high standards that they constantly achieve. This kit has a good level of detail, comes with an easy to follow instruction booklet and is a very good choice of subject. Highly recommended.

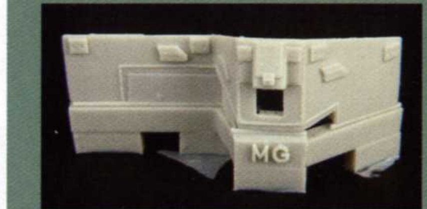


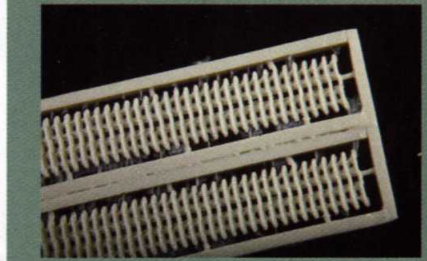
To complement the T16, Resicast have come up with the novel idea of producing a 6 pounder in the towed position. As per the norm with Resicast all of the parts are cast in a cream coloured resin and includes a tiny etched brass fret containing retaining hooks and eyes. The eleven-page booklet has been printed showing the model under construction with large arrows pointing out where everything goes. All of the parts need to be removed from their moulding blocks before assembly so take care, as some are very delicate, especially the little square tabs sticking out from the wheel hubs.

What separates this gun, is that the muzzle, breach assembly and part of the gun shield have all been cast with a very realistic set of dust covers in place. Resicast have done a great job of getting the look and hang of these canvas covers just right.

The final set in my opinion is an absolute must, if you want to build the first two as a set piece. This set includes two very nicely detailed crew figures with alternate heads, a stack of stowage and modified suspension arms to give the T16 that distinctive 'squatting on its back end' look when loaded down with stowage and dragging that heavy old gun along.

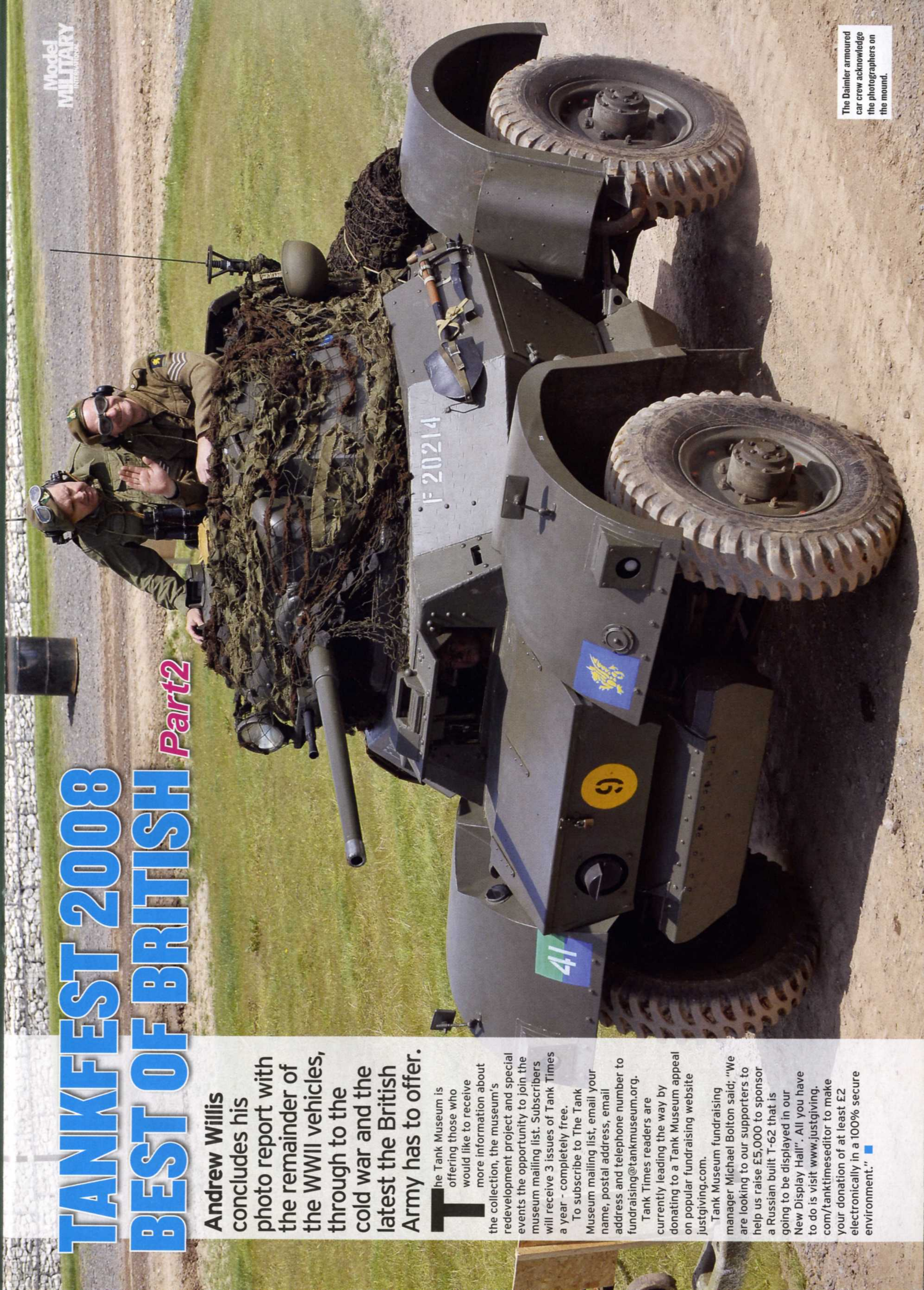
The figures are crisply cast in the familiar cream coloured resin, with the bodies moulded in one part. Both are sitting in natural and relaxed poses and are wearing standard battledress uniform with anklets and boots. The cuffs on the jackets have been cast hollow allowing for the hands to be painted separately before fitting, a nice touch. Ammo pouches are also moulded onto the figures, so they don't look like a stuck on after thought. The stowage takes the shape of a pile of metal ammo boxes, some folded sheets/tarpaulins, a spare wheel for a 6 pounder, metal stakes, a small roll of barbed wire and a cam net. The level of detail again is top-notch, just take care removing the items from the resin plugs. Once assembled the stowage is designed to fit onto the rear of a carrier. The figures are designed to sit in recessed areas on the stowage. All in all a very good addition to any carrier vehicle. I can honestly say all these sets are highly recommended. ■





TANKFEST 2008 BEST OF BRITISH *Part2*

Andrew Willis concludes his photo report with the remainder of the WWII vehicles, through to the cold war and the latest the British Army has to offer.



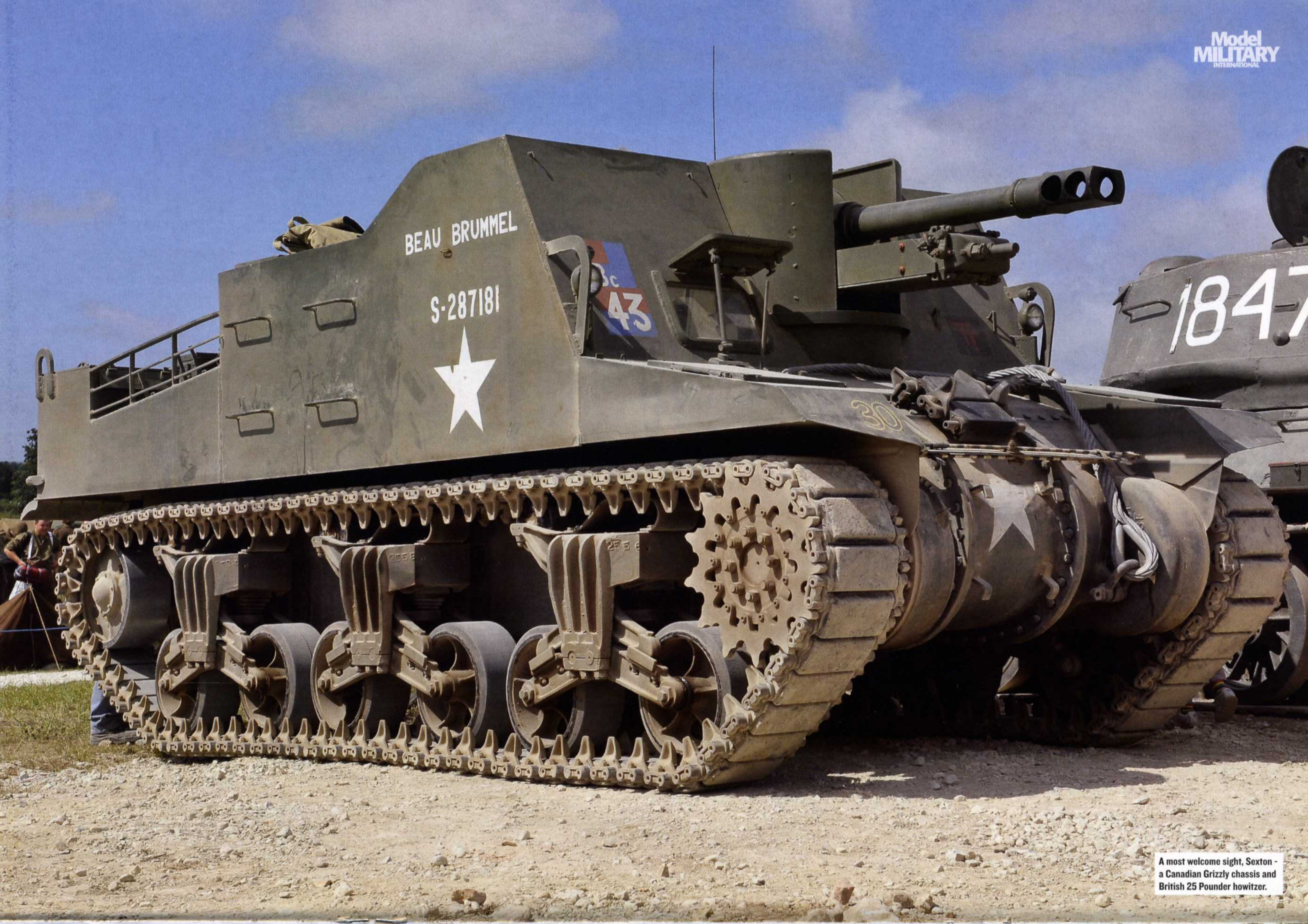
The Daimler armoured car crew acknowledge the photographers on the mound.

The Tank Museum is offering those who would like to receive more information about the collection, the museum's redevelopment project and special events the opportunity to join the museum mailing list. Subscribers will receive 3 issues of Tank Times a year - completely free.

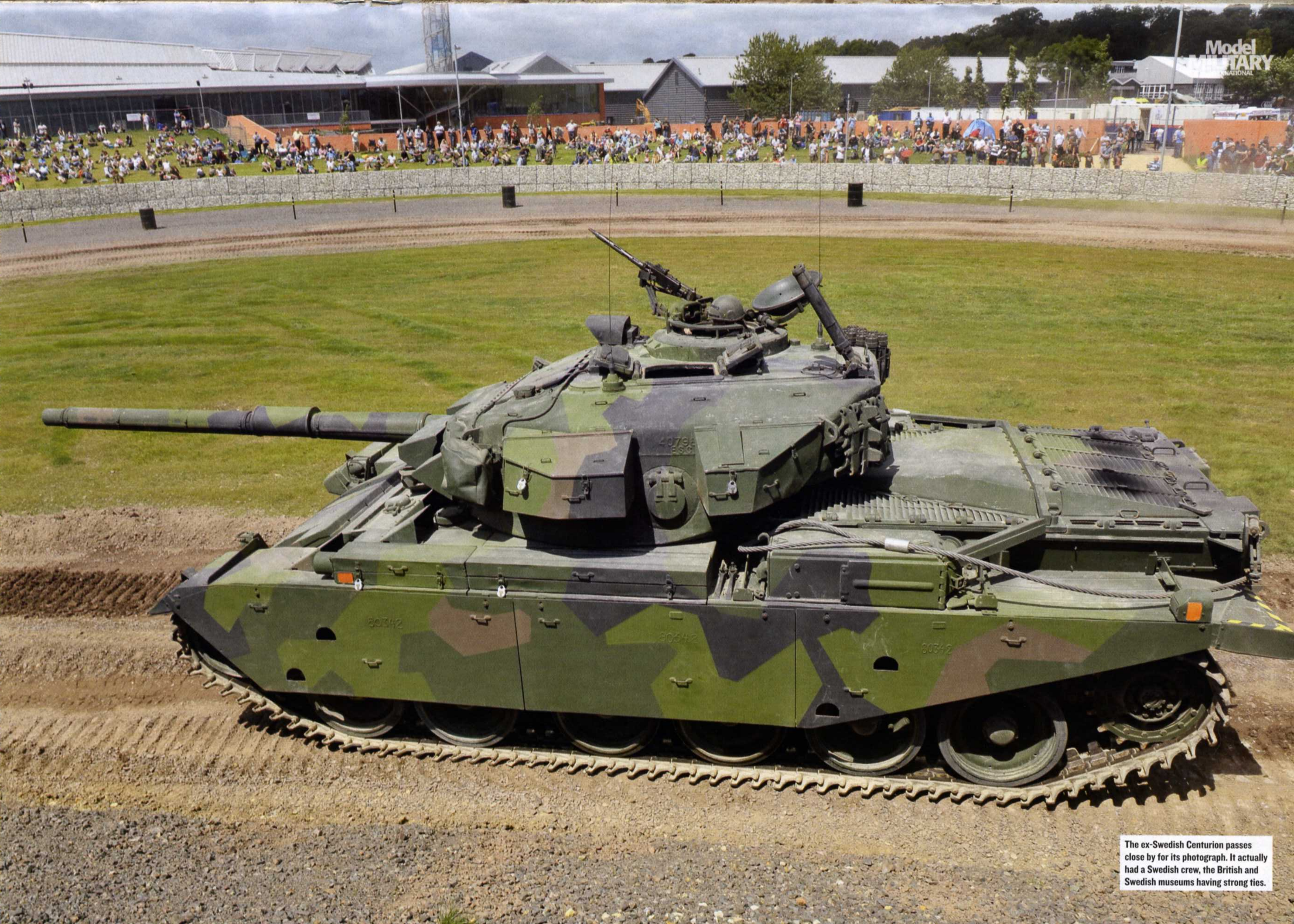
To subscribe to The Tank Museum mailing list, email your name, postal address, email address and telephone number to fundraising@tankmuseum.org.

Tank Times readers are currently leading the way by donating to a Tank Museum appeal on popular fundraising website justgiving.com.

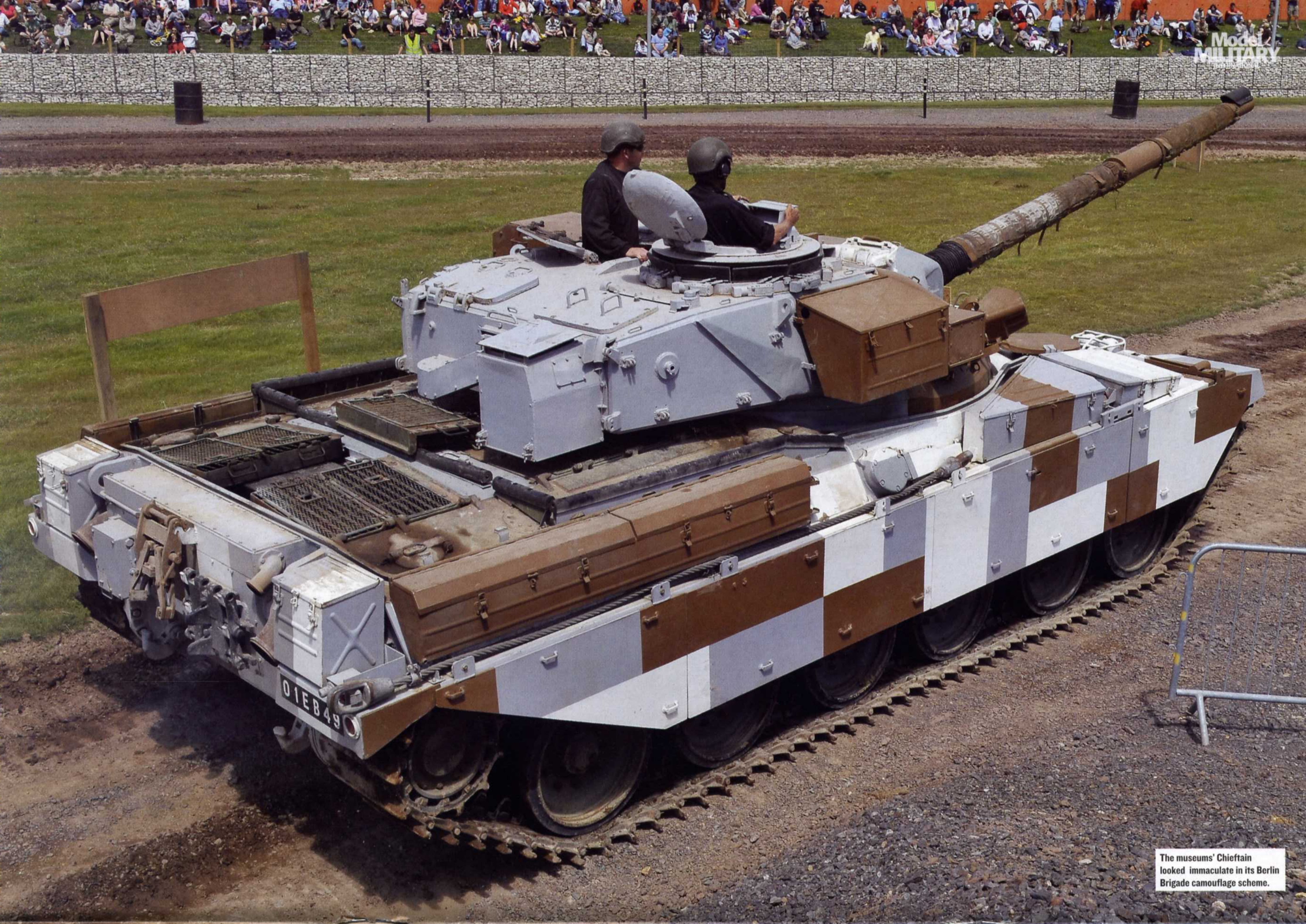
Tank Museum fundraising manager Michael Bolton said; "We are looking to our supporters to help us raise £5,000 to sponsor a Russian built T-62 that is going to be displayed in our New Display Hall". All you have to do is visit www.justgiving.com/tanktimeseditor to make your donation of at least £2 electronically in a 100% secure environment." ■


BEAU BRUMMEL
S-287181
3c 43
30
1847

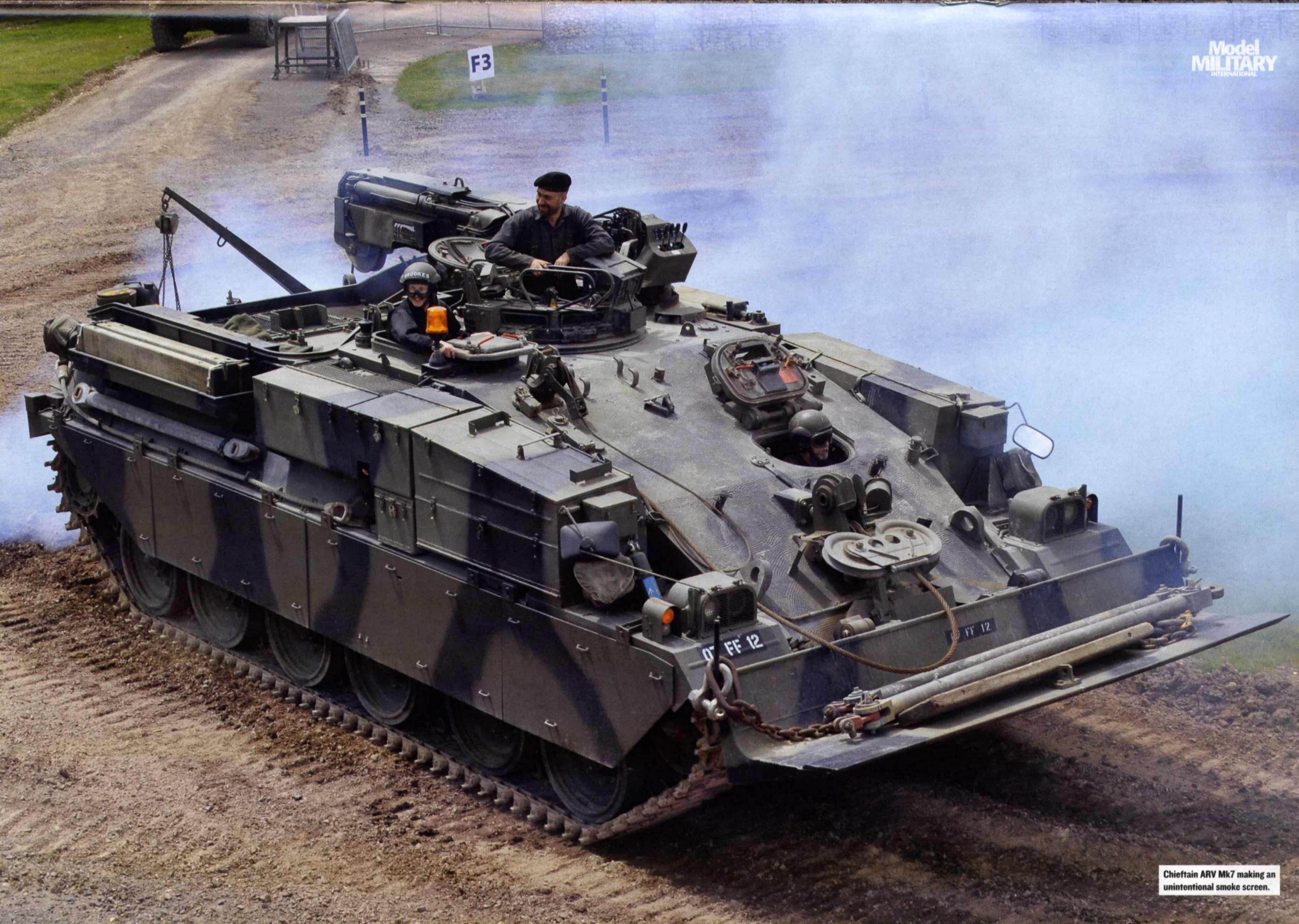
A most welcome sight, Sexton - a Canadian Grizzly chassis and British 25 Pounder howitzer.



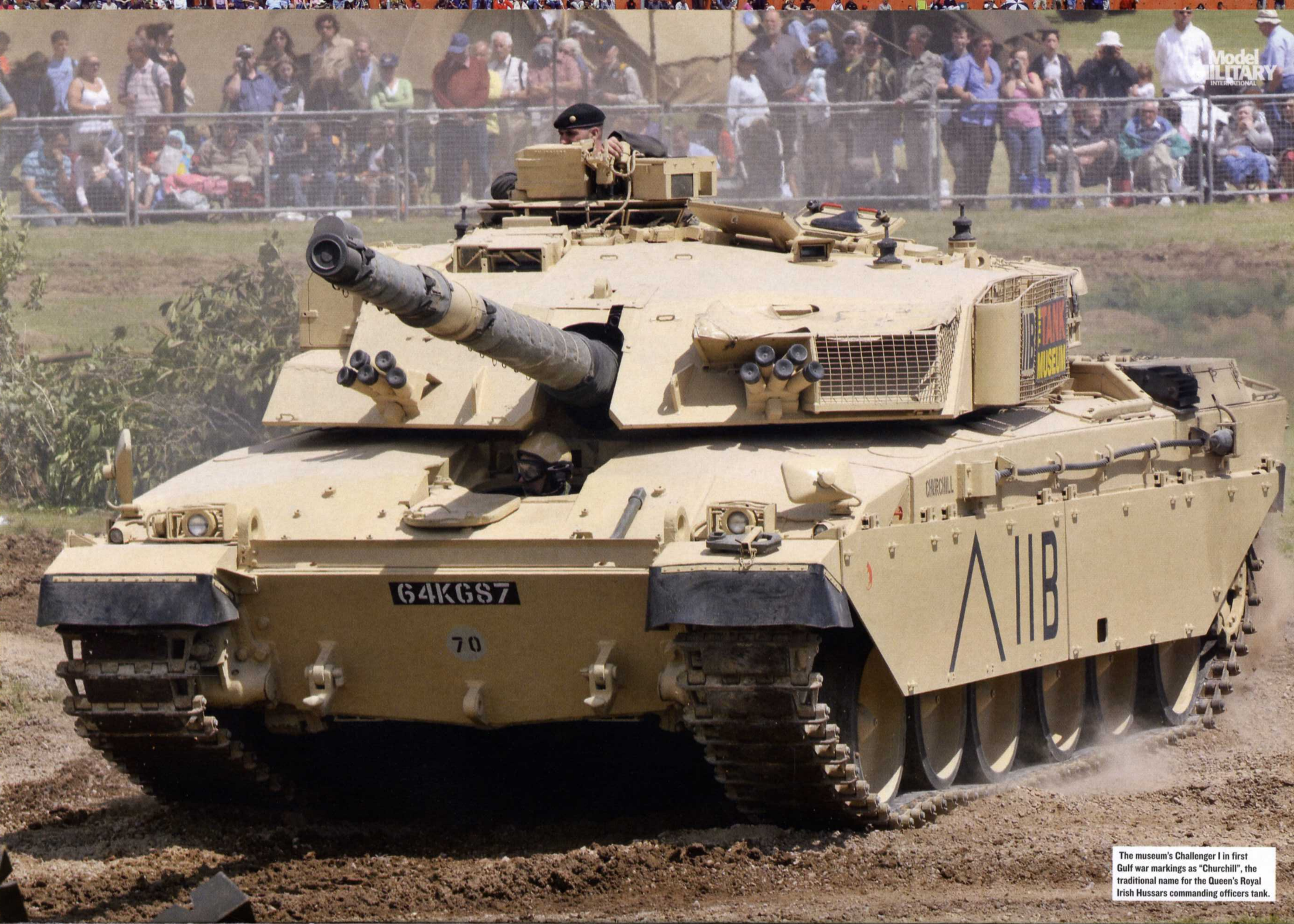
The ex-Swedish Centurion passes close by for its photograph. It actually had a Swedish crew, the British and Swedish museums having strong ties.



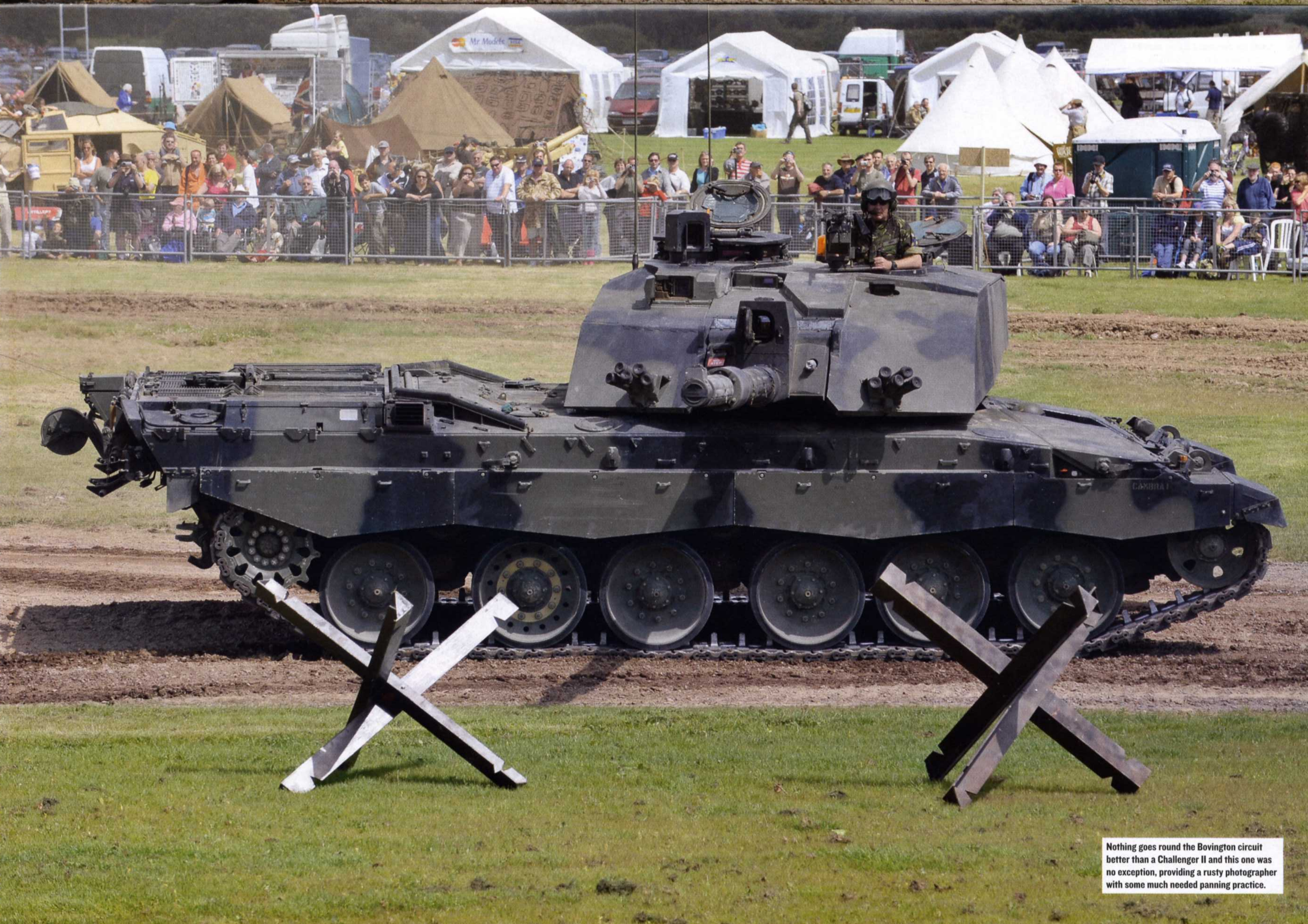
The museums' Chieftain looked immaculate in its Berlin Brigade camouflage scheme.



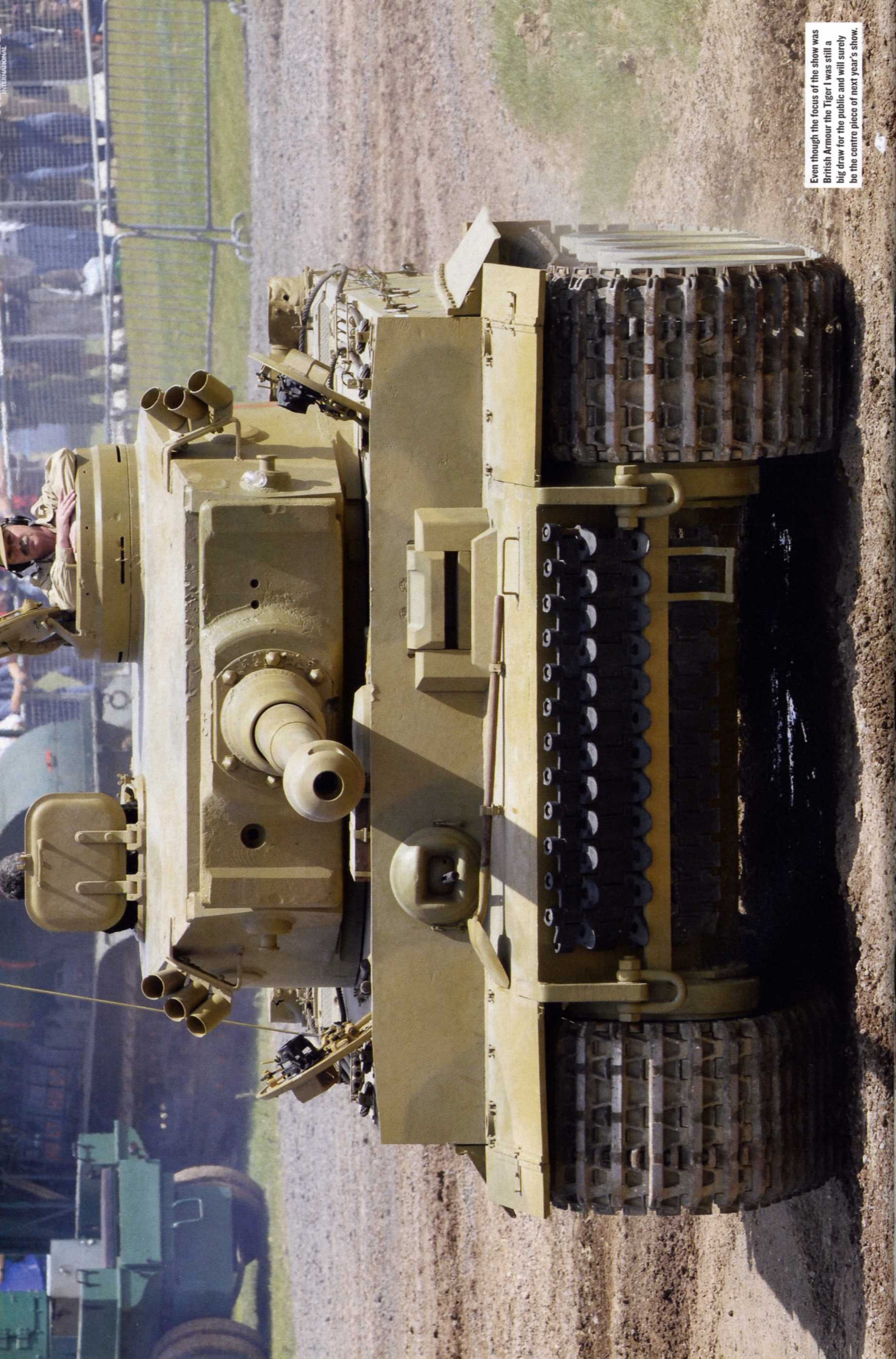
Chieftain ARV Mk7 making an unintentional smoke screen.



The museum's Challenger I in first Gulf war markings as "Churchill", the traditional name for the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars commanding officers tank.



Nothing goes round the Bovington circuit better than a Challenger II and this one was no exception, providing a rusty photographer with some much needed panning practice.



Even though the focus of the show was British Armour the Tiger I was still a big draw for the public and will surely be the centre piece of next year's show.

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THE RESEARCH SQUAD
panther project
tiger

The Research Squad (Lee Lloyd, Alisdair Johnson, Brian Balkwill) share a common passion to the preservation and restoration of items of historical interest. To this end we are working with The Wheatcroft Collection to publish a series of books on significant items and restoration projects. These include a Panther Tank, and S130, the last remaining German S-boat.

Our first publication - The Panther Project Vol 1: Drivetrain and Hull begins the photodocumentary series of books detailing the full restoration of a Panther tank at the Wheatcroft Collection. Our second book due for publication early in the new year – Tiger: A Modern Study of Fgst. Nr 250031 – is a 160 page photostudy of the Tiger tank currently housed at the collection.

www.theresearchsquad.com • www.wheatcroftcollection.com • www.s130.co.uk

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BUDGET BRUSHES ON TEST

John Wilkes tests three budget airbrushes and proves you don't have to spend a lot to get great results.

Opportunities to review several airbrushes at once are bound to be comparative by nature so what follows is based upon my experiences with the models being reviewed.

I took each model in turn and sprayed two colours through at the same pressure setting; this was followed by an attempt to write the name of the airbrush next to the section where I had coloured in. The paint used was straight from the bottle Model Air colours. So as they say in all the best competitions "In reverse order..."

PAASCHE VJR £65.99

This was the first one I tried and to say I had problems would be an understatement. I found that the loose fitting inner parts of the mechanisms were difficult to tighten with a small grip which locks the needle in place being especially fiddly. The needle was slightly bent at the tip and this caused several other issues which I had difficulty rectifying. Namely that the air was diverted back through the paint cup creating bubbles and also paint splattering. This was reported to The Airbrush Company and in quick time they had sent a replacement needle. With this in place the paint spatter and bubbles had now gone, much to my delight. The air trigger was difficult to get into the right place as there was either too much air or nothing at all. I had to control the airflow with the regulator on my compressor. General feel of the airbrush was one of a cheap item as the rear portion of the airbrush was made of plastic, this made the whole assembly slightly off balance and nose heavy. Personally I found the trigger to be rough and it felt like it needed oiling. The price alone would put me off this one of the three as it was the middle priced but in my opinion the bottom in terms of quality and finesse. Due to the small size of the paint cup only a limited section can be sprayed at a time which would force multiple fillings to cover an average 1:35 scale tank. In my test, the spray pattern was initially irregular and almost impossible to control efficiently, with the new needle it performed much better and a smooth spray session was achieved. The small, barrel trigger setting device on the back of the model between the paint cup and trigger is awkward to access and I didn't find it to be of any use at all. In summing up I would have to say I initially found this airbrush to be problematical, this could likely put people off of the joys that a good airbrush can give, although to be fair in the end it worked O.K.

PREMI-AIR G-35 £29.99, YES THAT IS RIGHT £29.99!

After the Paasche this was quite an enjoyable experience to take an airbrush I had never tried before and get the sort of results I did in the test. The inner workings are not too dissimilar to the more expensive Iwata, however there was some very slight movement with the needle holder which was not evident on the Iwata. Quality of build is leaps ahead of the Paasche with the outer body being of a chrome plated metal construction. The one I found the best of the three was this one, the size of the paint cup being large enough to hold plenty of paint and it comes complete with a lid to help prevent accidental spills. Air pressure regulation was a bit more controllable through the trigger and I was soon writing with the airbrush. For a budget model this is going to be hard to beat being the cheapest of the three by a considerable margin. Considering that this is from the Airbrush Company's own range, the spare parts will be readily available. At the current price anyone would be hard pushed to find anything better cheaper, even amongst the copies from the Far East being sold on internet auction sites, which do not come with any real warranty or technical backup. This really is a good all round beginner, entry level airbrush offering value for money and a good product too. The Airbrush Company currently has this model available with a baby compressor for under £100! How's that for a bargain?

IWATA REVOLUTION BR £69.99

Now anyone wanting a good quality airbrush at a great price should look no further than this model. The nozzle is manufactured from steel alloys which allow for rough handling without fear of damage when cleaning up. The inner workings are high quality which all means that it works beautifully smoothly. The outer body is well balanced and feels good in the hand. There is a weighty feel which gives the handler the impression of a quality product. Straight out of the box I was able to get a smooth spray pattern and in a matter of minutes I was writing with it. Control of the air flow is like the Premi-Air achievable through the trigger action. To be honest it has been difficult to review this model as a comparison to the other two as I could go on all day using the clichés of how much better it is than the others and that it is in a class of its own etc., but I will spare you all of that. The small paint cup was the only down side compared to the Premi-Air, however Iwata models are available with different cup sizes. This is a good all round product which offers the best quality at an affordable price. I have little hesitation in recommending this airbrush if your budget will stretch to it.

I might be slightly biased as I have been using an Iwata amongst my arsenal for a couple of years but this really is a worthy winner of the three on review, closely followed by the Premi-Air with the Paasche in a disappointing third. ■

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to The Airbrush Company who submitted the airbrushes for review. Please go to www.airbrushes.com for the full range or write to-

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Lancing Business Park
Lancing
West Sussex
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+44 (0) 8700 660 445
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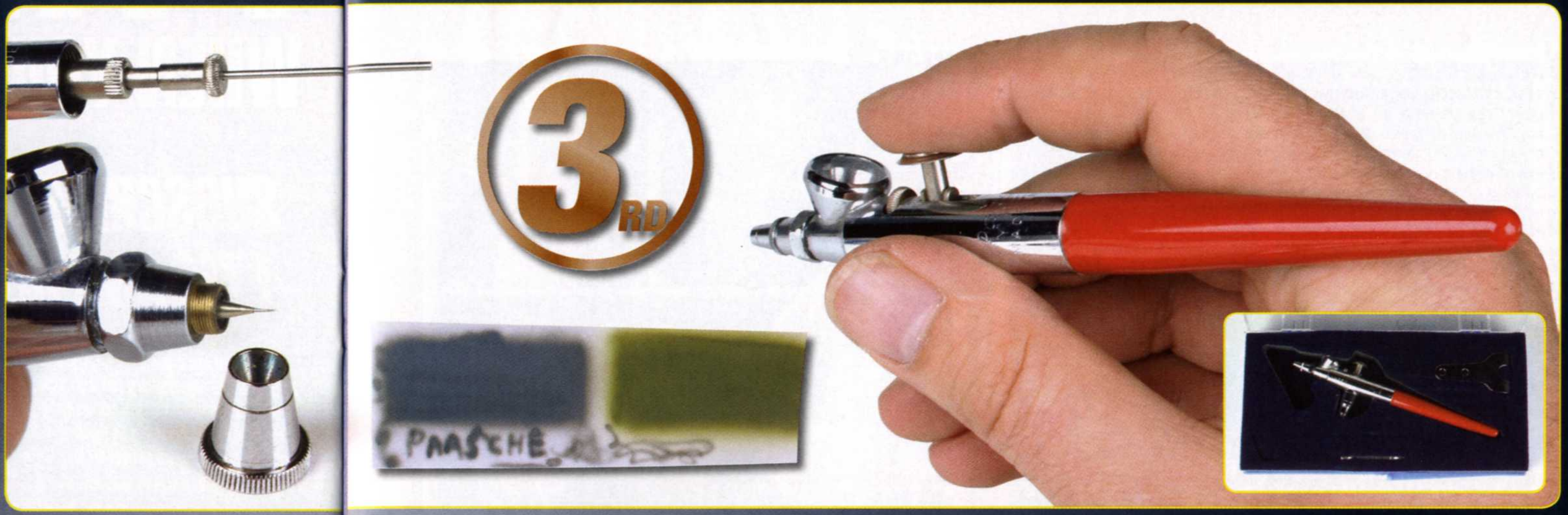
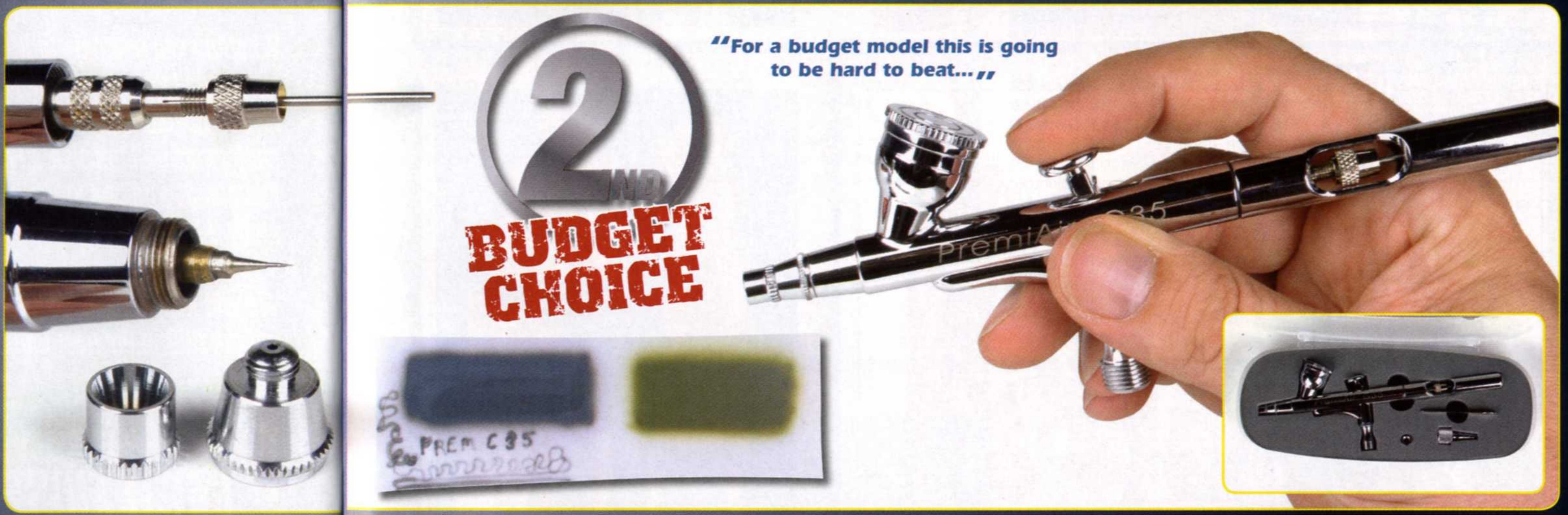
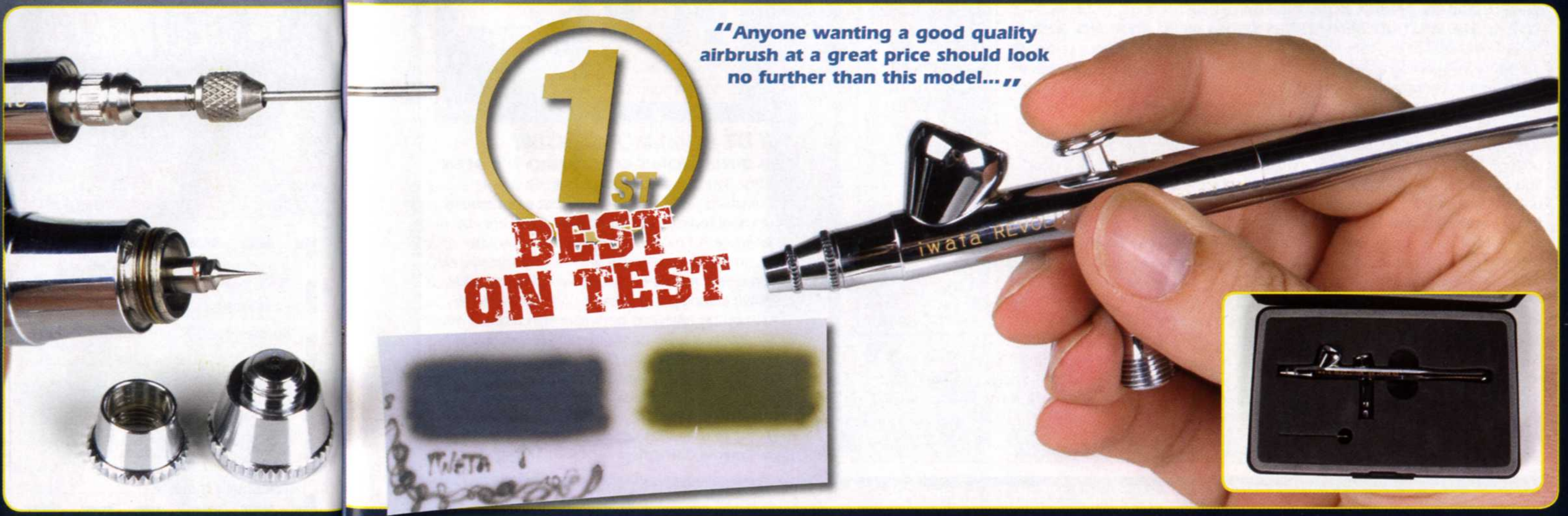




"For a budget model this is going to be hard to beat..."



"Anyone wanting a good quality airbrush at a great price should look no further than this model..."

Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

ADALBERTUS

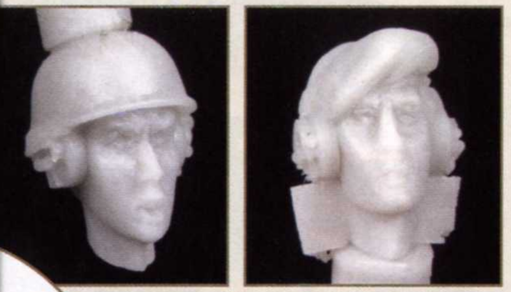
1:35 STAGHOUND ARMOURED CAR CREWMEN ITEM NO. 35-010

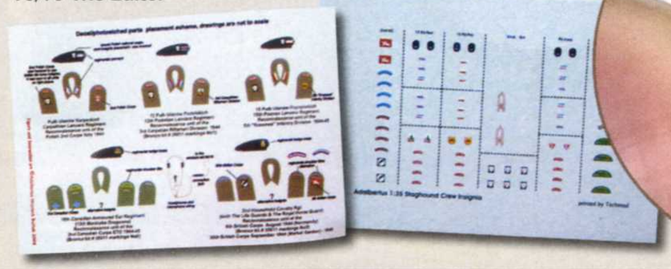
Designed to fit either the Bronco or Italeri kit, this set not only includes two beautifully detailed 3/4 figures but also a superb set of waterslide decals for their uniform patches and insignia as well as a tiny etched fret containing real brass alternate cap badges. Both figures come with optional heads, giving the modeller the choice of tankers helmets or berets, both with headphones. I really like this set and the thought and effort that has gone into them, from the skill of the sculptor, to the colour information leaflet, which offers both a uniform painting guide and reference illustrations to make full use of the excellent decals provided. All in all a first rate set of figures of which I wish all other manufacturers would follow suit.

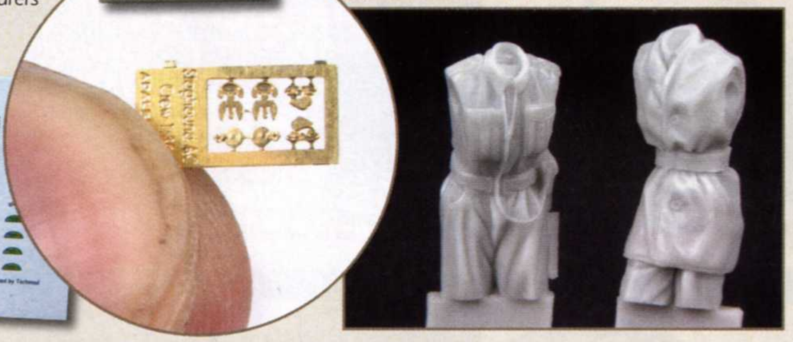
Available from www.adalbertus.com.pl

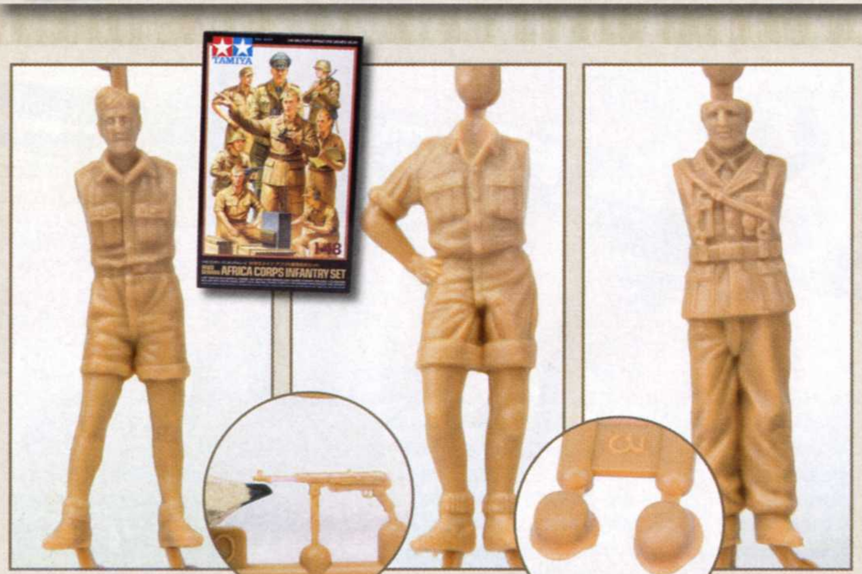
10/10 The Editor

ADALBERTUS









TAMIYA

WWII GERMAN AFRIKA KORPS INFANTRY SET
1/48 SCALE MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES NO61 ITEM NO. 32561

Tamiya has released a 1:48th figure set of the Afrika Korps in various poses. All the figures are pantographed versions of their 1:35th scale offerings and as a result exhibit a number of failings. Seven figures are included that include for the most part separate arms and in some instances heads.

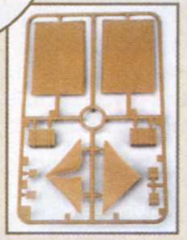
Some of the figures in this set date back to the mid seventies (and while this is not a bad thing) they are really not up to par in regard to detail and uniform finesse. The walking infantryman for example was not really a good figure in the seventies and as this is a direct copy of its 1:35th brother and unfortunately it's not really all that good in 1:48th either. The pose of this figure just doesn't look right in my mind.

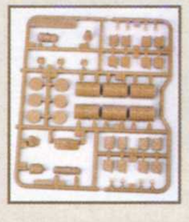
Some of the other figures however, have been done pretty well. The pointing figure for example is a scaled down version of the updated 1:35th 88 Gun and while he is a little 'soft' detail wise and pretty skinny he is not a bad figure. The rest of the set includes a tent (which is pretty good) and the now standard jerry can and fuel drum sprue, that seems to be included in almost all of Tamiya's current 1:48th scale releases.

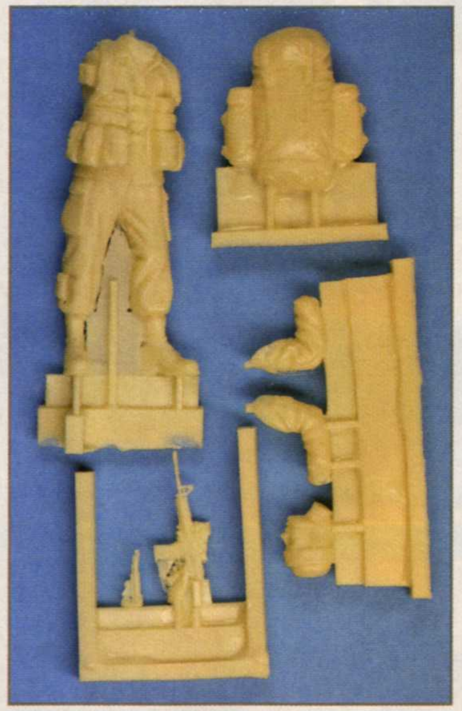
I'd be lying if I said I was impressed with this set. The figures in terms of uniform detail and finesse are nowhere near as good, as anything from ICM for example in this scale. In my opinion, in order for the 48th Military Miniatures to take off (sales wise) a good range of figures need to be released that exhibit all the detail of their bigger brothers.

Available from all good model shops.

5/10 Luke Pitt







J W DE BOER MODELBOUW

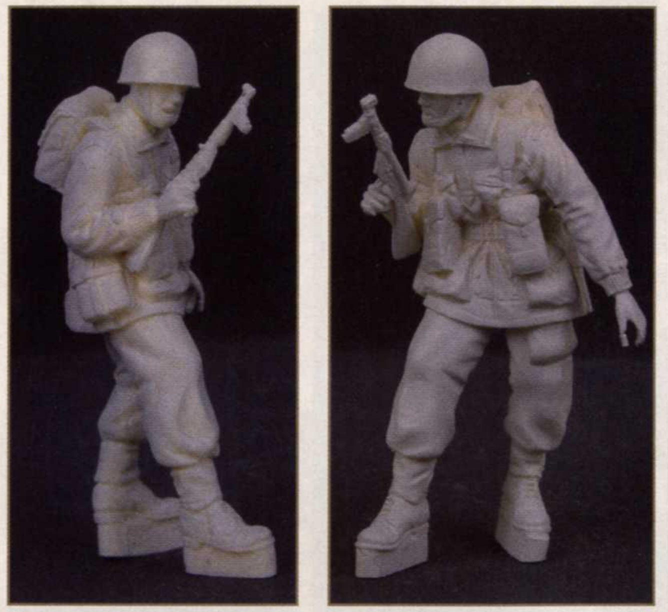
1:35 DUTCH KORPS COMMANDO TROOPEN

This first figure in a new range from Dutch manufacturer J W De Boer Modelbouw is certainly an unusual topic. I don't think that there are any other figures of modern Dutch serviceman out there, so this is a welcome addition. Flawlessly cast in cream resin the figure is well detailed and is shown standing in a relaxed pose with a large bergan on his back and his weapon in a casual yet ready position in his hands in front of him. There are a number of modern Dutch vehicles out there such as the YPR and the Leopard 2 so this figure of a commando should prove usual.

Highly recommended.

Available from www.jwdeboer.nl

9/10 Graeme Carruthers



WEE FRIENDS

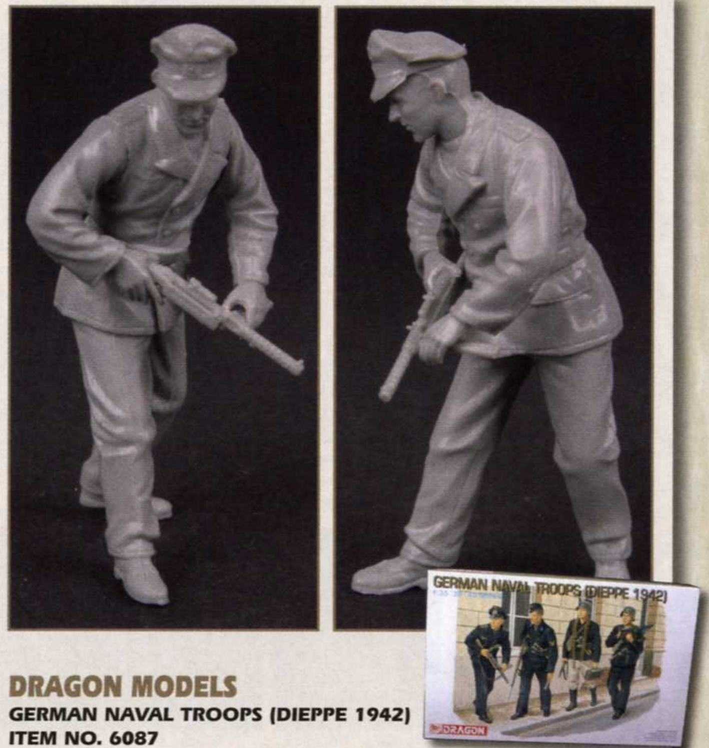
WW2 BRITISH PARATROOPER.

Here we have yet another excellent figure from Wee Friends. It depicts a WW2 Paratrooper in a semi-action pose. Again he is cast in Wee Friends usual cream coloured resin with the detail being outstanding. He is made up of just four parts. The bulk of the figure is cast as a single piece, with the exception of his arms and head. The only other two items to be attached are his entrenching tool and magazine for his Mk.V Sten gun. There are some nice little touches to this figure, like his Para wings patch on his right arm.

The parts fit is excellent with no filler being needed at all. He is just crying out to be displayed on a small vignette peaking around a wall or knocked out panzer. So if you like your British figures this one comes highly recommended.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

10/10 Glenn Bowen



DRAGON MODELS

GERMAN NAVAL TROOPS (DIEPPE 1942)
ITEM NO. 6087

Another re-issue from Dragon, this time it is the German Naval Troop set. Taking a closer look at this set really brings it home how moulding technology has moved on. These figures do look pretty dated now and suffer from some serious mould seams, this aside they are much quicker to assemble than the latest Gen 2 figures and with some careful cleaning up and maybe some new heads will still look very good. The timing is pretty good too with the Churchill Mk III from AFV Club hitting the model shop shelves any day soon, I'm sure Dieppe raid dioramas will become a lot more popular in 2009.

Available from all good model shops.

7.5/10 The Editor

DRAGON MODELS

1:16 WARRIOR SERIES
STURMBANFUHRER ARDENNES 1944
ITEM NO.1602

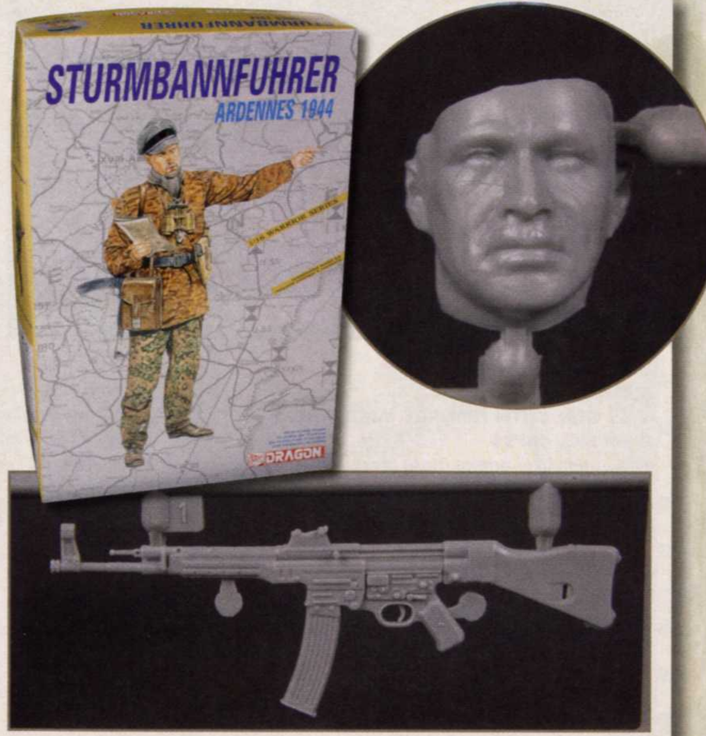
Not a new figure, but a re-issue of Dragon's original 1:16 scale injection moulded plastic figures.

The figure still looks pretty good and with careful painting could fool all but the most knowledgeable eye that this is an expensive resin figure! Having said that, opening the box is a bit of a let down as the single sprue containing the figure parts, the two tiny sprues holding MP-44, binoculars and map case and the black plastic base look a little lost rattling around in the box. This especially when you are used to opening Dragon's armour kit boxes that are literally overflowing with sprues.

Overall this is a great introduction to larger scale figure modelling and painting, he is easy to assemble and will offer plenty of practice when it comes to replicating his Waffen SS camouflage smock and trousers. One thing I would love to know is who drew the short straw and had to use a black marker pen to black out the SS Death's head insignia from the box top and instructions on every kit?

Available from all good model shops.

9/10 The Editor



Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

British Paratroopers, WWII
"Where's that damn bridge?"
Operation Market Garden, 1944
British Paratroopers, WWII
Rigid Landing
Operation Market Garden, 1944
MB

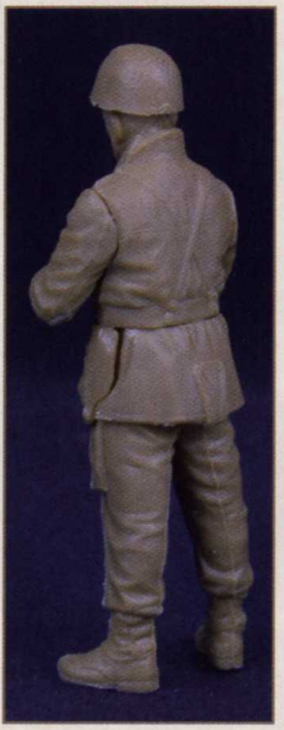
MASTER BOX LTD

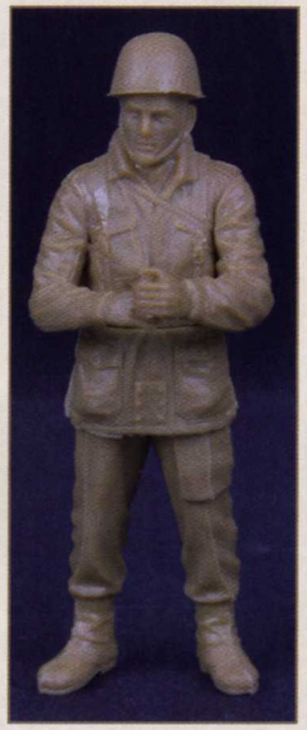
1:35 INJECTION PLASTIC FIGURES
'WHERE'S THAT DAMN BRIDGE?' ITEM NO. 3533
RIGID LANDING ITEM NO. 3534

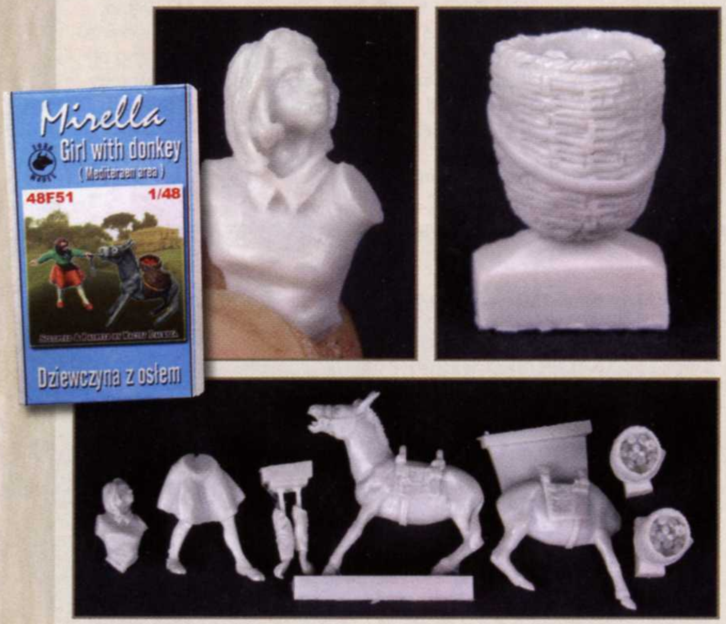
I must say that when I first heard about these two sets of figures I was rather excited. I mean it's not every day that a plastic model manufacturer releases something that the market has been crying out for ages for. The first thing that one notices is the excellent box art and on the reverse are some shots of the finished figures made up. There is also a colour chart, which gives you five different manufacturers range of colours to be used. Upon opening the box you are met by a single tan coloured sprue that contains all four figures and equipment. The detail is quite nice and crisp especially around the equipment, but many of the parts suffer from heavy mould lines. The figures themselves do go together well but the figure I assembled for the photos was a poor fit around the lower portions of his Denison smock. I personally would also replace the heads with some from the Hornet range. Saying that, with some careful clean up the kit heads will look more than adequate. I must commend Master Box on producing these two sets and fingers crossed it will lead to some more Allied figure releases.

Available from all good model shops.

8/10 Glenn Bowen







TORO MODEL

MISELLA
1:48 GIRL WITH DONKEY (MEDITERRANEAN AREA)
ITEM NO. 48F51

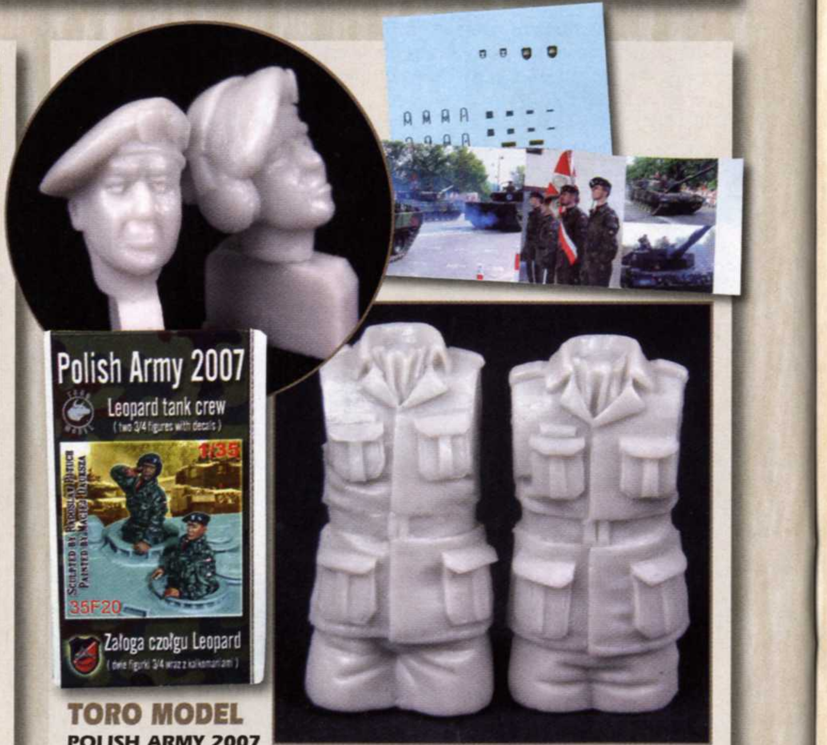
This is definitely one of those products that instantly get the modelling juices flowing. I can picture either a 1:48 Allied or Axis vehicle having its path blocked by this stubborn donkey that won't get out of the way! No matter how hard the girl pulls on its (whatever the technical name for a donkey's lead is?) while the tank crew are less than polite with their suggestions for her moving her ass!

The nine parts are cleanly cast in light grey resin, meaning assembly won't take very long, but some care will be needed to join the two halves of the donkey together especially along its back and neck.

A great addition the 1:48 range of figures with plenty of diorama potential.

Available from www.adalbertus.com.pl

9.5/10 The Editor


Polish Army 2007
Leopard tank crew
(two 3/4 figures with decals)
1/35
35F20
Załoga czołgu Leopard
(dwie figurki 3/4 wraz z kalkomaniami)

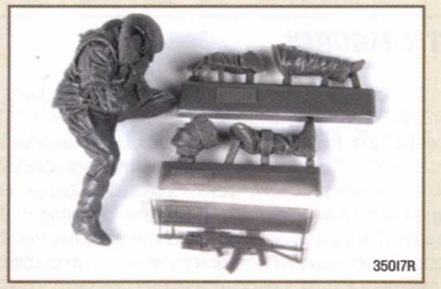
TORO MODEL

POLISH ARMY 2007
1:35 LEOPARD TANK CREW
ITEM NO. 35F20

This set of two 3/4 tank crewmen have been designed to fit the turret hatches of a Polish Leopard 2AM4. The figures have been sculpted to represent crew figures standing to attention during a ceremonial parade. This set, as with the Staghound crew also include a set of waterslide decals containing nametags, rank insignia and unit patches. Toro Model even include a small leaflet which has photos of both tank crewmen's uniforms and Leopards 2AM4s on parade, the perfect aid to help with painting. Very nicely produced but in my opinion offer only limited appeal to modellers outside of Poland.

Available from www.adalbertus.com.pl

9/10 The Editor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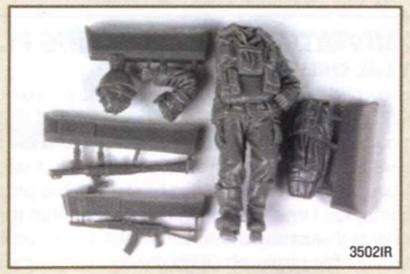
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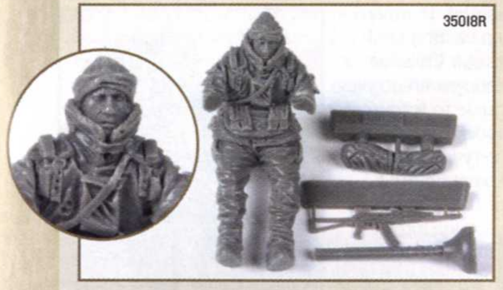
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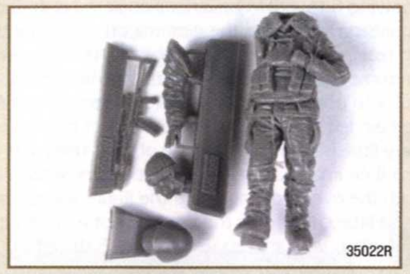
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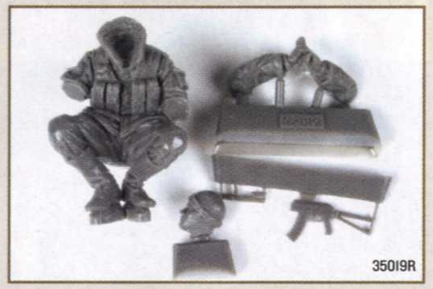
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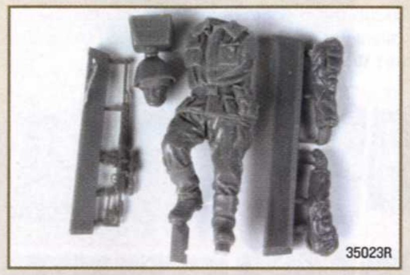
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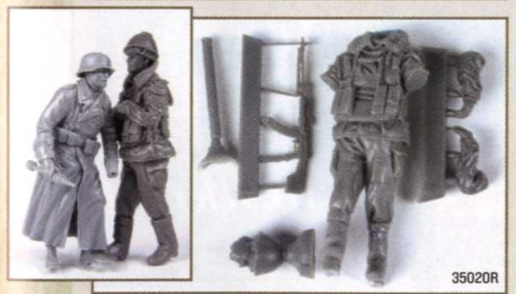
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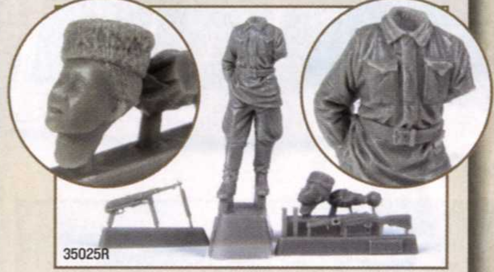
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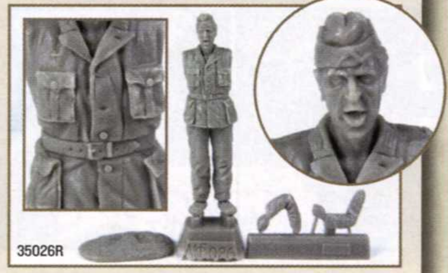
35026R

MASTERCLUB

1:35 RESIN FIGURES
THE MODERN RUSSIAN SOLDIER MCF 35017 R
THE MODERN RUSSIAN SOLDIER MCF 35018 R
THE MODERN RUSSIAN SOLDIER MCF 35019 R
THE MODERN RUSSIAN SOLDIER MCF 35020 R
THE MODERN RUSSIAN SOLDIER MCF 35021 R
THE MODERN RUSSIAN SOLDIER MCF 35022 R
THE MODERN RUSSIAN SOLDIER MCF 35023 R
THE RUSSIAN YOUNG GUERRILLA 'SON OF SHELF' WWII MCF 35025 R
GERMAN CAPTURED WWII MCF 35026 R

Along with the resin tracks sent in for review in our 'Incoming' section, MasterClub were also kind enough to include a selection of their 1:35 resin figures. All but two of these are modern Russian soldiers wearing winter clothing and have been sculpted in relaxed and casual poses. The remaining figures include a young WWII Russian who has been titled 'Russian young guerrilla - son of shelf', of which I have no idea what that means and a captured WWII German.

The Modern Russian Infantrymen will definitely be a most welcome addition to anyone who has an interest in modelling modern Red Army subjects.

The figures look very good, the sculptor has done an excellent job of recreating the bulky look of their thick cold weather clothing. I'm also pleased to say that the couple I stuck together, fitted perfectly. Once the arms were attached, the join was invisible. My only criticism is that all the Russian figures had exactly the same title, this could make selecting the right figure from the list a little confusing. This is why we have numbered each photo to help out. Excellent figures and thoroughly recommended.

www.masterclub.ru also available from www.nordlandmodels.com

10/10 The Editor

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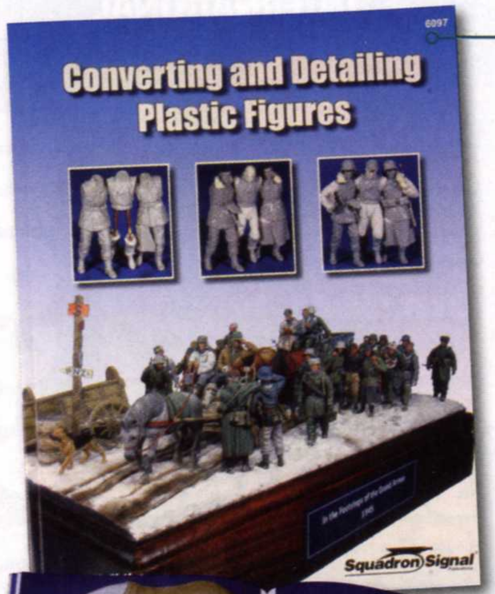

CONVERTING AND DETAILING PLASTIC FIGURES

BY BILL CHILSTROM

Renowned American modeller Bill Chilstrom has taken the opportunity to show his simple but effective techniques to converting stock plastic figures into more natural and lifelike poses. He takes the reader through the conversion of multiple figures using mainly Dragon 1:35 Germans with various aftermarket heads and hands as well as other company's stock detail parts. The book is a short (I read it in a couple of hours) and often repetitive read using the pictures to show the process of conversions using his techniques. I was a little surprised to find that this manual does not give much insight into detailing rather than just sticking to conversions of poses and some clothes. His advocacy of certain products I found a little pushy although there is a small paragraph on alternatives. Photography is of a high quality showing his work from various angles and throughout the book the reader can see the collection of figures grow to form the diorama on which the title is based. There are no real chapters as such and the reader is left with a gap waiting for, I presume a second volume on the painting of the figures. Mr Chilstrom is quick to point out an alternative reference book for painting with acrylics so I am left thinking that there may not be a painting guide to follow? Very little is shown in the way of tools used and the modeller is left to use their imagination here. Don't get me wrong I was very impressed with the overall diorama and the figure animation and painting but I felt a little cheated by the title i.e., not a lot of detailing. The finished diorama is very impressive and shows the effort that has gone into it over a considerable time scale. This is a difficult subject to convey through this medium but a credible effort has been made.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

John Wilkes

Kettenkrad
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History · Technology · Production Batches · Combat
Henry Hoppe & Jochen Vollert

TANKOGRAD-WEHRMACHT SPECIAL NO.4011

KETTENKRAD - HISTORY-TECHNOLOGY-PRODUCTION BATCHES-COMBAT

TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING

64 PAGES SOFTBACK

Following in the traditional Tankograd format of a couple of pages of text and then the rest of the magazine being full of well captioned photos. This issue is a real bonus to anyone who has a Dragon or Tamiya Kettenkrad in their stash and wants to add all the missing details. As well as some great photos, that will no doubt inspire many a diorama builder, these show the vehicle in use on most fronts, there are also full page detail photos and pages taken from the technical manuals.

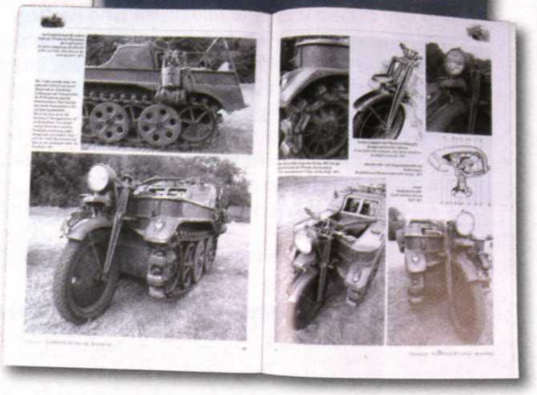
During its life, the Kettenkrad went through a number of upgrades and variants produced and these are explained in the German/English text and pointed out in the photos.

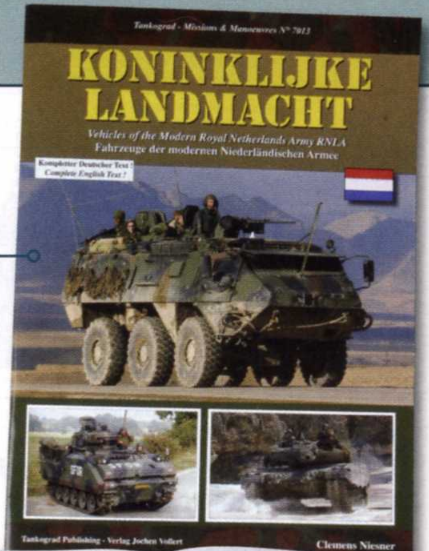
This is a great reference book and should be at your side if you are intending on building one of these little vehicles.

High recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

Graeme Carruthers




KONINKLIJKE LANDMACHT
Vehicles of the Modern Royal Netherlands Army RNLA
Fahrzeuge der modernen Niederländischen Armee
Tankograd Publishing · Verlag Jochen Vollert
Clemens Niesner

VEHICLES OF THE MODERN ROYAL NETHERLANDS ARMY RNLA

TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING

64 PAGES SOFTBACK

With only a couple of pages of text at the beginning, this is essentially a photo study of vehicles those crazy Dutch are using these days. The photographs are all clear, in colour and have both English and German captions. The photos show vehicles from the versatile little Mercedes Benz 290GD through to the six wheel Fuchs, the eight wheel Boxers and various DAF and Mercedes trucks including transporters. The big hitters aren't missing either, with photographs of the Panzerhaubitze 2000 SPGs in action on both the artillery range and in service in Afghanistan (and fitted with the supplemental roof armour!).

The Leopard 2 both A5 and A6. Versions are also shown and if you are looking for some great diorama inspiration then how about a Leopard 2A6 on a beach in the Caribbean?

A must for modern armour fans.

High recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

Graeme Carruthers

Tankograd
MILITÄR FAHRZEUG
Ausgabe 4/2008
MAN-Power!
M1A1/A2 TUSK
VCA Palmaria
CROSSED SWORDS 86

TANKOGRAD MILITAR FAHRZEUG MAGAZINE AUGUST 2008

VARIOUS-TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING

68 PAGES S/B

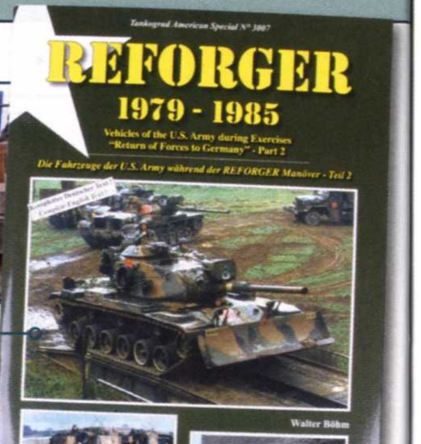
The latest Edition of the Tankograd periodical magazine is the August Edition. Although the main text is in German all the photos have English captions as well as an English summary at the back of the magazine. There are an awful lot of excellent photos contained within, of which the majority are in colour. The magazine itself consists of 13 articles ranging from World War 2 to the present day, including the Argentine ACA Palmaria self propelled gun, the Faun Tank Transporter in Polish service, Exercise Crossed Swords 86, The Bruckenleger Bridge layer, The MAN Light Support Vehicle in British Army Service. My personal favourite is the one on the M1A1 AIM and M1A2 SEP with TUSK and includes the very latest upgrades for the M1 including armoured shields for both the commander and loader's stations, .50-cal Counter Sniper/Anti Material gun and the ARAT 2 ERA Armour which is mounted over the original ERA and looks very much like roof tiles, very cool! Overall this is an excellent magazine and the photographs provide plenty of inspiration for the modeller.

Recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

Jeff Adams

Book Reviews


Tankograd American Special N° 3007
REFORGER
1979 - 1985
Vehicles of the U.S. Army during Exercises
"Return of Forces to Germany" - Part 2
Die Fahrzeuge der U.S. Army während der REFORGER Manöver - Teil 2
Walter Böhm

REFORGER 1979 - 1985
VEHICLES OF THE U.S. ARMY DURING EXERCISES - PART 2
TANKOGRAD AMERICAN SPECIAL NO. 3007

TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING

This release is hot on the heels of Tankograd's first special on the Reforger exercises. The first edition covered the 69-78 period and this second carries straight on from where the first left off, covering the 1979-1985 period.

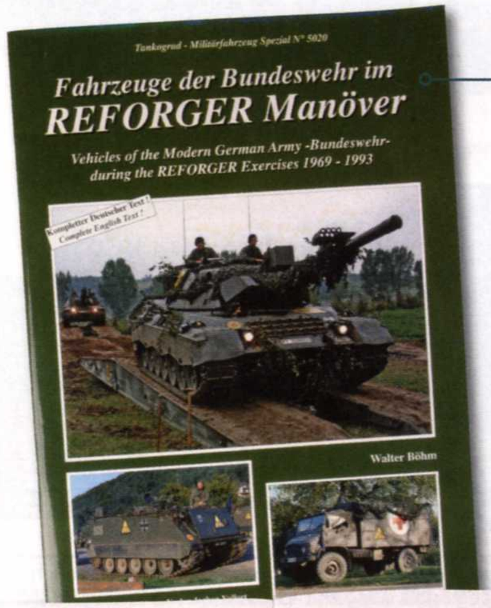
As with the first part, a brief synopsis is included for each year's war game, which lists all the units involved on both the 'Blue' and 'Orange' forces, where it took place and the total numbers of personal taking part.

This is then followed by a great selection of colour and black and white photos with interesting captions. During this period most of the vehicles seen are sporting the MERDC four colour camouflage schemes, however there are a couple of photos featuring M60s, M113s and MUTT Jeeps with the 'Dual-Tex' trial digital style camouflage (a great scheme, but a real challenge to have a go at copying!).

The 1982 exercise saw the first use of the brand new M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, which now looks so different to the Abrams deployed in Iraq nowadays. If you are a fan of modern U.S armour, then this is a 'must have' for your collection.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

The Editor


Tankograd - Militärfahrzeug Spezial N° 5020
Fahrzeuge der Bundeswehr im
REFORGER Manöver
Vehicles of the Modern German Army -Bundeswehr- during the REFORGER Exercises 1969 - 1993
Walter Böhm

REFORGER MANÖVER
VEHICLES OF THE MODERN GERMAN ARMY DURING THE REFORGER EXERCISES 1969-1993
TANKOGRAD MILITARFAHRZEUG SPECIAL NO. 5020

TANKOGRAD PUBLISHING

In a very similar vein to the REFORGER series, Tankograd have published a single edition covering the Bundeswehr's participation in these huge annual exercises from 1969 right up to 1993, though officially the last exercise they took a practical part in was 'Certain Shield 91'.

The book starts with 14 pages of dual German/English text, which explains the remit of each exercise and an overview of the results.

Following these 14 pages of text the book goes straight into the photos, which are a mix of black and white and colour, the photos have been kept to a maximum of three per page and in some cases the only one per page. By doing this the photos can be kept large and invaluable for modelling reference. This is another of those books that makes you want to start a project not necessarily at the top of your 'to do' list, as the book is full of early Leopards, Marder IFVs, M113s M48A2s an Gs and all manner of wheeled APCs and softskins. If you have post war German armour models form the Tamiya of Italeri range in your loft and you get a copy of this book, I guarantee you will be building one soon.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

The Editor

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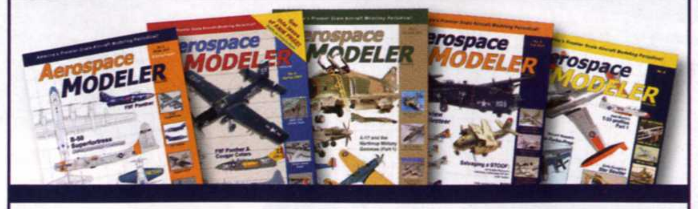

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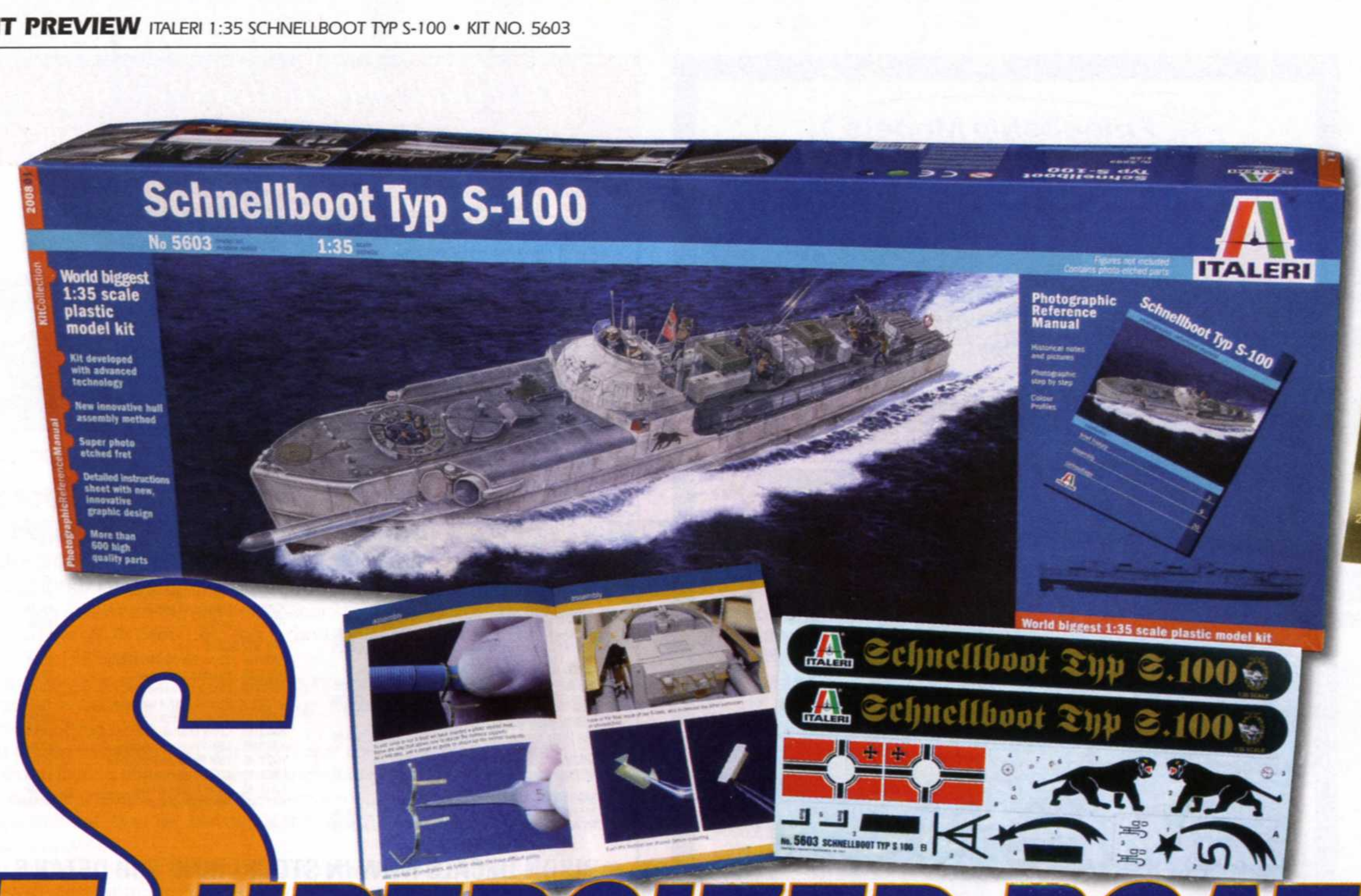
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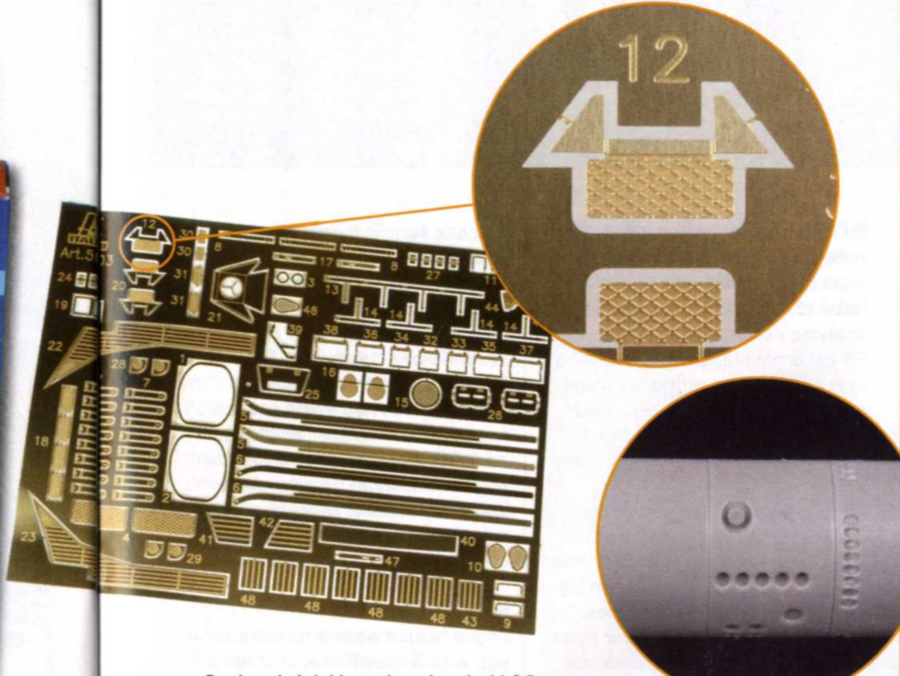
SUPERSIZED BOAT



Decals are included for two boats from the 4th S-Boote flotilla, based in Rotterdam, Holland during 1945. Both boats are in the standard 'Schnellbootweiss' scheme. As can be seen the flags are missing their swastikas. Replacement flags are available from Archer Fine Transfers at www.archertransfers.com or Historex Agents in the UK.

The Editor climbs inside the ridiculously large box of Italeri's all new and mightily impressive S-Boat and has a good look around with a view to moving in and living in it!

First and foremost the box top states some very true words: "The World's biggest 1:35 scale plastic model kit" and I for one have no reason to doubt that, this model is absolutely massive!

Once I had managed to wrestle the lid off this ridiculously large box, the first thing that I noticed were the two, one metre (3' 3") long hull mouldings; these parts really dominate the box and most certainly grab your attention.

The rest of the box contains, the deck sections and bridge, plus a ton of smaller fixtures and fittings. Italeri have also included one of there little photographic reference manuals, which includes both original wartime photos, background information and some useful step by step photos to help with certain areas of the assembly.

The instruction 'sheet' is actually a 47 page A4 landscape format pamphlet and thankfully each stage is easy to follow and will not overload even the most inexperienced of modellers.

ADDITIONS INCLUDED

Also included are a large etched brass fret, a small bag containing various screws, nuts and a small screwdriver to help with assembly.

Italeri have also gone to the effort to include some of the finer details on a large etched brass fret, this fret contains items such as the depth charge racks, bridge windshield surrounds, ventilator grilles and crew helmet holders. Two thicknesses of cord are also provided for the rear sections of the railings and rigging.

I have actually started to assemble the boat for a forthcoming article and I must say, so far it is going together really well, the huge hull sections have gone together with no problems at all and are a true testament to the work the guys at Italeri have put into getting this model right. On the subject of the hull, the small blanking plates that cover the screw holes, weren't the best of fits and did require quite a lot of filling and sanding.

Taking a closer look at some of the components, the distinctive armoured bridge or 'Kalotte', which literally means 'Skull Cap' has been well done and captures the look of the real thing perfectly, including the fine rivet detail.

The weapons have also been well rendered; both the torpedoes and 2cm and 37cm flak guns are nicely detailed and look pretty good straight from of the box. The G7a torpedoes look particularly nice, but care will be needed when assembling the two halves of each, to minimise the sanding that will be needed to remove the join line and the chance of loosing some of the recessed screw and bolt detail.

Some of the deck hatches did suffer from some ejector pin marks, which will prove a little tricky to fill, the easier option is to have the hatches close! Also on the deck are three rectangular covers with six circular skylights, these according to my reference were deleated on S-100s and is clearly visible in the photo of S-204 in the excellent Squadron Signal book on the Schnellboot in Action.

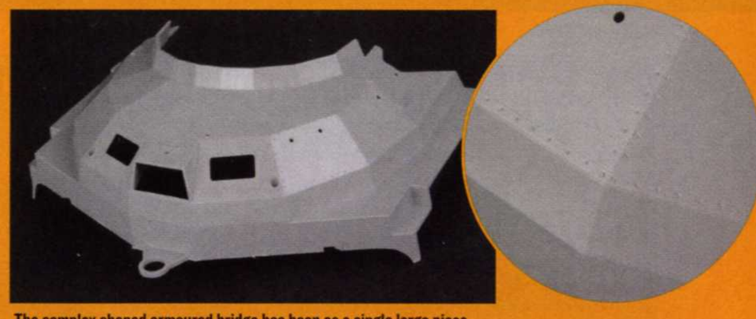
Two decal options are supplied; both are from the 4th S-Boote flotilla, based in Rotterdam, Holland during 1945. The first is S-204 commanded by Kommandant Clause Hinrichs and the second is for the boat named 'Ha-Ju' captained by Kommandant Hans Jurgen, both are finished in the standard 'Schnellbootweiss' with red brown anti-fouling paint below the waterline and black boot topping line.

The Schnellboot in Action book fetaures some very nice colour side view drawings of S-Boats featuring some really cool camouflage patterns, but on a more detailed inspection reveals these were all applied to the earlier S-38 class boats. However there was one photo of the armoured bridge of an S-100 class boat which featured a very crudely applied scheme, but I wouldn't have the guts to copy it, as it would just make the model look scruffy!

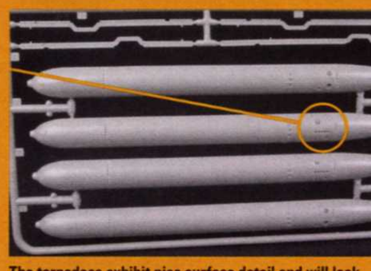
For more info on Schnellbootes, check out www.prinzeugen.com which includes some great colour photos, plans and a wealth of fascinating facts and all their specifications.

Overall the detail throughout is very good; obviously there is always room for improvement. I for one will be swapping a few smaller items and adding a bit of extra detail, but that's just me liking to personalise my models. Thoroughly recommended, Italeri have offered a very good model of a great subject that I would never have dreamt of being produced in 1:35! ■

As mentioned in the main text, the box is big, so much so, the box it arrived in from Italeri, only just fitted in the boot of my car! I can see there will be a lot of unhappy postmen trying to wedge these through letterboxes if you've mail ordered one!

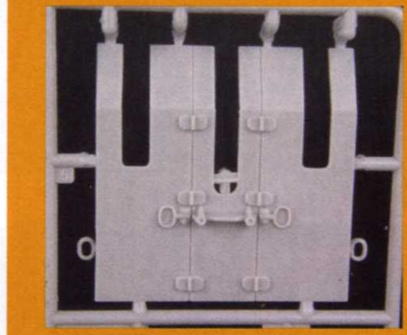


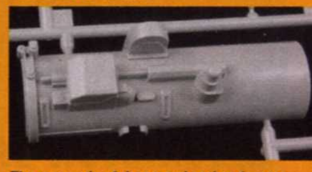
The complex shaped armoured bridge has been as a single large piece, detail is good, and includes all the tiny rivet detail.



The torpedoes exhibit nice surface detail and will look great under a coat of metallic paint.

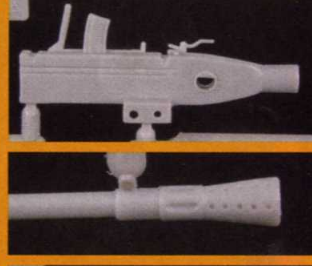
The RZA5 targeting detector mounting the Zeis 7x50 binoculars sits prominently on the bridge; these have been simplified a little and could do with a bit of extra detailing if the modellers so wishes.

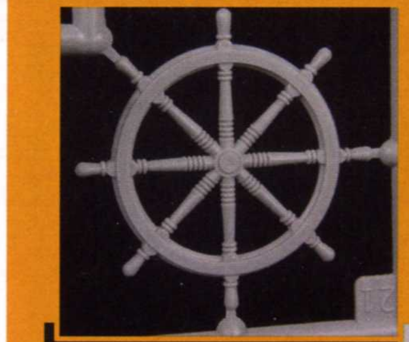


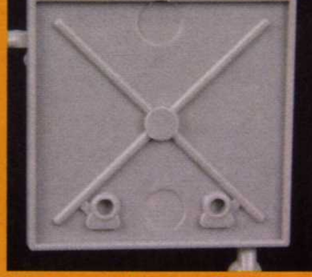


The rear ends of the torpedo tubes feature the complex firing mechanism, which Italeri have done a decent job of replicating, however there is room for the super-detailer to leave his mark.

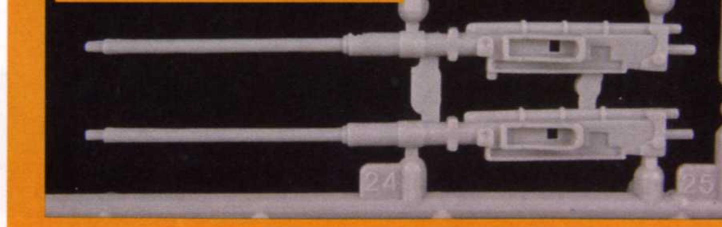
Italeri have done a good job of replicating the delicate railing and have even included the chain sections in plastic, which actually look pretty realistic.







As can be seen in this close up, the inner faces of the hatches do suffer from ejector pin marks.



Letters

WRITE TO:
MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel: 01525 222573 Fax: 01525 222574 Email: editor@modelmilitary.com
The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

WINGY THINGIES

For this month's message from the Editor I was coerced by the boss to plug a new ADH Publishing magazine on aircraft called Aerospace Modeler. I prepared to do battle and defend our armour modelling corner and point out that my readers would have no interest in this new title and that my magazine didn't really have anything to do with things with wings. I was convinced I had won my case, it was then that the boss gently reminded me, that one of the main articles within this month's issue was based around a crashed P-47 Thunderbolt aeroplane! Which ever way I looked at it, the boss had a point, so for all you modellers out there who have an interest in aircraft please check out the ADH website or directly on *www.aerospacemodeler.co.uk*

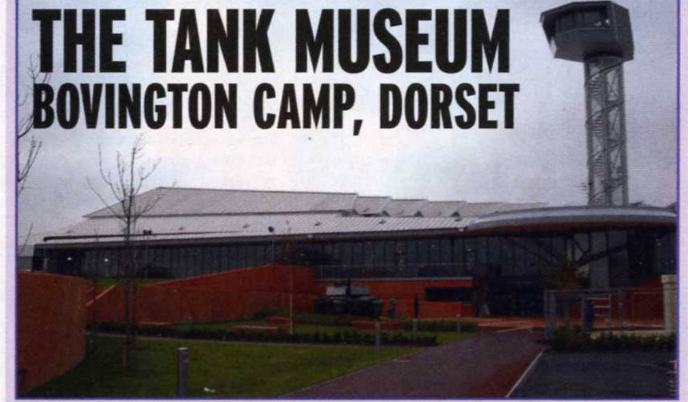
See you again on January Ist

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

RECOMMENDED ~~READING~~ Museum

NOT A RECOMMENDED READ THIS MONTH BUT A RECOMMENDED PLACE TO VISIT!

THE TANK MUSEUM
BOVINGTON CAMP, DORSET



Back in November I had to pay a visit to the Tank Museum to drop off copies of the magazine featuring the first part of our Tank Fest supplement. I hadn't visited the museum since work on the all-new exhibition centre had started, and boy was I in for a pleasant surprise. Even in its not quite finished state, it looks amazing, the new hall focuses on 25 of the most influential tanks through out the history of armoured warfare. Even from the all-new café and raised seating and viewing gallery it looks great and I for one can't wait for it to be fully opened. Whilst there, I couldn't resist visiting the rest of the museum and thanks to the new hall, many of the vehicles remaining in the old halls have been spread out making them more accessible to take photos for that all important reference. It is a place I never tire of visiting and with the new hall and layout will give you every excuse to visit beautiful Dorset again and again.

For opening times and all other info please go to *www.tankmuseum.org* or call 01929 405096

DECAL HUNT

Hello my name is Miran Flores and I build armour in 1:35 scale. In issue 16 in the Last Post article on applying decals, your example was 55 gal drum stencils. I've checked every source I could think of, and can't find them. Would you mind dropping me a quick note to let me know who it is? I would greatly appreciate it.

As for your magazine, what can I say? Every issue has some of the finest work in any publication. Your articles constantly push me to try harder and try new techniques. I've been building models for about 40 years, and you guys show me there's always something new I can learn. Thanks for your time and keep up the good work.

Miran Flores

***Ed says;** The decals used were not specifically for 55 gallon drums, but were just decals taken from the spares box, which had quite a lot of carrier film to demonstrate how well the Johnsons Klear worked.*

The decals I actually used for the article were from Tamiya's Modern US equipment set (35266) and were the decals for the 40mm grenade launcher ammo boxes.

MAGIC TRACKS AND BELLY COLOURS

Dear Editor, first can I say your magazine is the best on the market. The models you feature are very inspirational and have helped me with my own efforts. I think you need a good example to learn from and aspire to and you provide that.

I have just two questions that would be very helpful to me if you could answer. First, what colour should the underside of a tank or military vehicle be? I have finished my models in German Grey, but I have read that it could also be primer red. Secondly, if model companies use their moulds as much as they can, would it be possible that Dragon may release a selection of their wonderful Magic Tracks? Fruilmodel tracks can double or triple the cost of a model and Magic tracks are so easy to use. I have been with MMI since day one and every issue is an exciting and inspirational read. Carry on the good work!

Neil Torpey,
Dorset

***Ed says;** Good news regarding Dragon releasing their Magic Track sets as separate items, they have recently announced they will be releasing various sets under the Cyber Hobby banner.*

As for the colour of the undersides of tanks, I guess it depends what country it is from, for WWII German I think red primer would be most logical and for US tanks, maybe olive drab. I did bare your question in mind when I visited the Tank Museum at Bovington recently, so made sure I had a look under a number of the vehicles on display and all the ones I looked under just had a nondescript rust and dust encrusted coating. If any readers can shed some light on this question please feel free to let us know.

MERKAVA MIX-UP

I have been meaning to write to you with a specific request for a week or three now but simply just haven't got round to it.

However having seen a recent issue of 'Mod Mil Int', which had an article on the MAFVA Nationals at Duxford I finally found the justification to get off my backside and do so!

Over my sixty-three years I have been referred to by several pseudonyms - pre Army - 'Monty', Army - 'Sparra the Para', post Army - 'Tug' and with a given name like Ramon perhaps understandably so.

So, what's this about you ask? Well it appears that now I'm an 'Olaf' as well, well at least according to your credit for my Merkava Mk 1 in your coverage of the show.

Oh dear oh dear! Not another bloody nickname. It's not the thought of my two minutes of fame going out the window just that I can well imagine what my fellow Norwich club members will make of it!!

Anyway, just like you to know that really I am highly pleased to see a picture of one of my models in the magazine and obviously just a little disappointed that 'Olaf' has a new model. Any chance of a correction next time?

So first off Spud I'd like to add my name to what must be a long list of people congratulating you for a job extremely well done (apart of course from just the odd mistake!) That the magazine is a front runner is without a doubt due to good editorship - yes I've read the criticisms published from time to time - but from this quarter you've got the content just right and the balance perfect. Please keep up the good work; long may it continue.

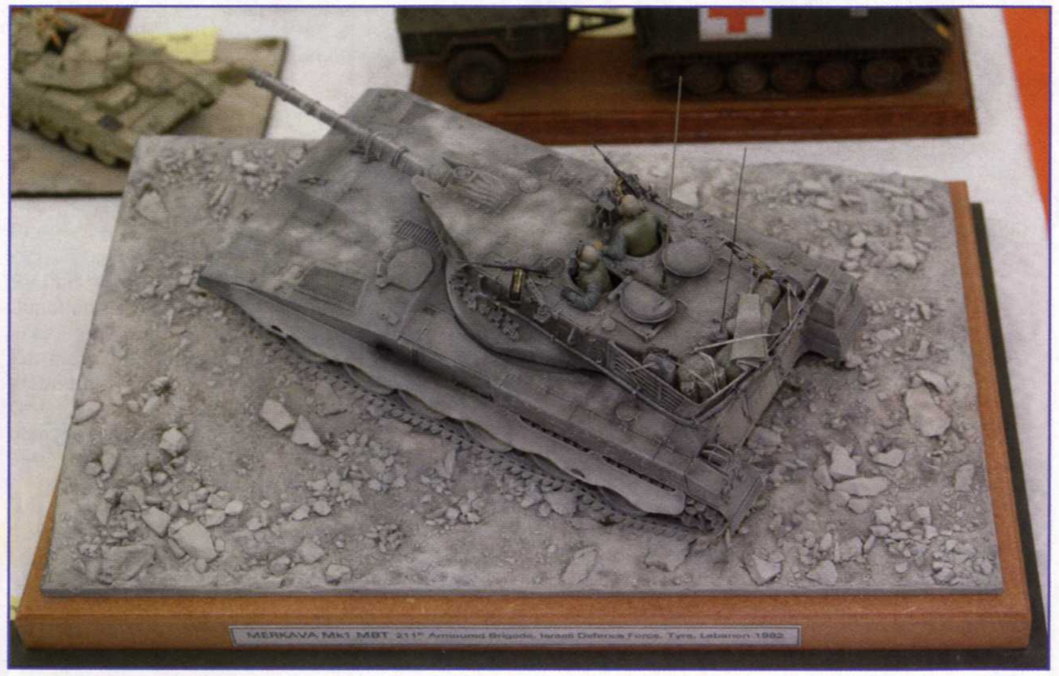
As I mentioned I had a missed a couple of issues, however at a recent meeting someone brought some back issues along and passed them on making my collection complete. One of these (issue 21, Jan 2008) carried the Leopard article by Mick Capell and (p32) the coverage of the full size by Ralph Zwilling. Now what got me back into this hobby was that stunning article in TMMI on the T55 and I have been hooked on weathering and trying to reproduce 'realism' in the model ever since. Indeed, your subsequent Abrams fired me up to do likewise and build a USMC version myself with the icing being a reward for the effort at Telford last year.

When I saw the pics of the full size Leopard, and particularly the title photo in Ralph Z's article, inspiration struck. The kit is bought, I have combed the woods for suitable mosses (I think successfully) to recreate the pine branches and foliage and hopefully I can recreate this scene in miniature.

My apologies for an overly long letter and thanks, thanks once again for a great magazine,

Yours sincerely
Ramon Wilson (Tug)
aka (albeit hopefully temporarily) 'Olaf'

***Ed Says;** My apologies Tug, I put the blame for the mix up purely on Bob Lockie's shoulders, he was the guy who passed on the list of all the competition entries for the MAFVA Nationals and even if he did pass on the correct information, and I labelled the model in the photo incorrectly, I will still blame Bob anyway! I look forward to seeing the finished Leopard, as YOUR Merkava looked superb.*


MERKAVA Mk1 MBT 211th Armoured Brigade, Israeli Defence Force. Tyre. Lebanon 1982

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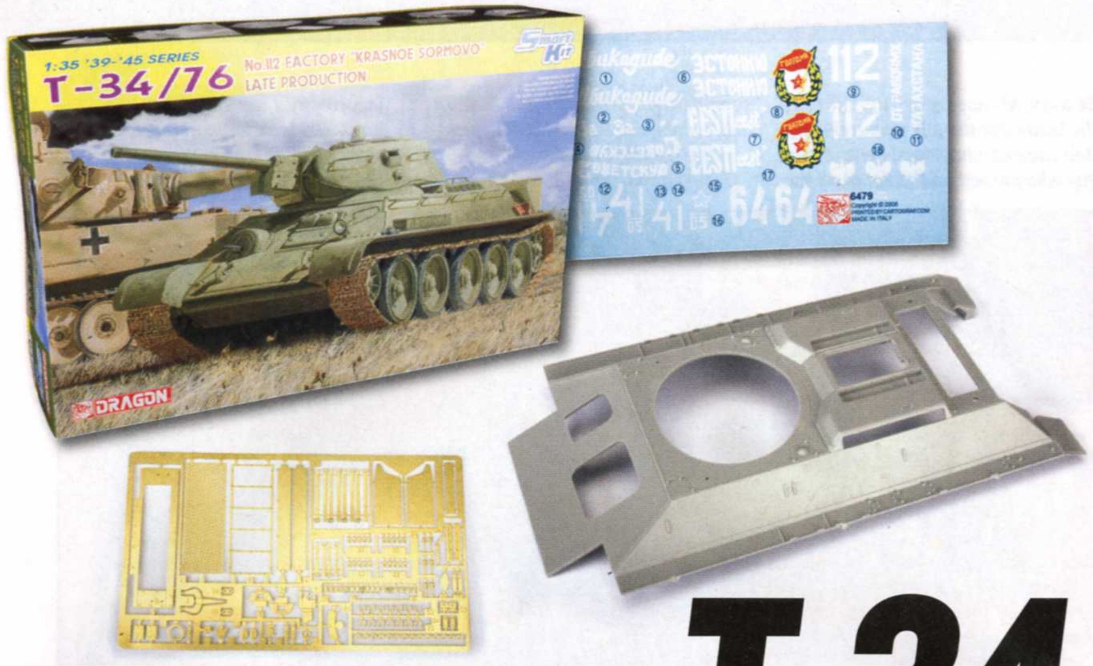


TOP TRUMPS T-34

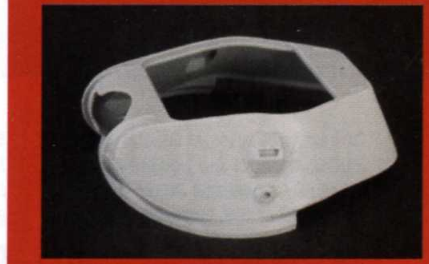
Andrew Willis takes a look at Dragon's latest version of the T-34, this time the factory No.112 variant.

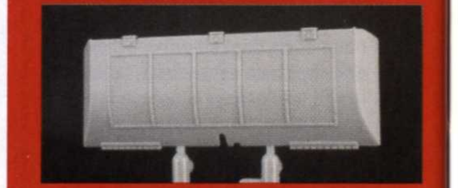
Although the T-34 was mass produced during the Second World War and over 30,000 of the 76mm armed version were produced, one thing that becomes apparent if you study the T-34 is the many subtle and major changes during its service life. Many of the differences in detail were due to the different factories used to manufacture the T-34. It is to Dragon's credit that they have covered so many of these differences in model form already and are by no means finished. It also appears to me that Dragon are trying to match the Russian's war time production figures for T-34s. This latest 76mm armed version is the first to feature the round engine access door rather than the earlier square one, and the hull will probably be used in the next announced variant: a hexagonal "Mickey Mouse ears" turreted 1942 model.

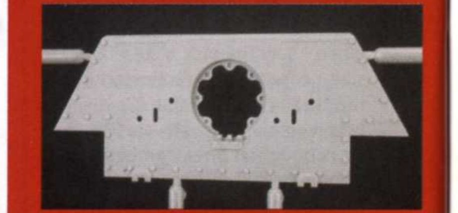
This model is actually the best from Dragon in so far as it features several items that have only been available from Cyberhobby before. The instructions are in the more traditional line style rather than the photographic type used in T-34s up to now. The tracks are improved Magic Tracks instead of sprue mounted ones. The kit includes a good size etched brass fret specifically for this model, a turned metal barrel and a metal tow cable for a very well specified kit. The decal sheet is again by Cartograf, one of the best in the business, and has markings for four tanks. The instructions cover five vehicles as the last is in plain green with no markings. Also in the box are a very nicely moulded cast turret, the correct later drive sprockets and the box-shaped fuel tanks seen on the rear hull. The grab handles that were welded to the turret and upper hull and were an identifying feature of this version are also included, even the bent ones that went over the curved rear engine cover. If you want to check how far Dragon have gone to make this model as accurate as possible then take a look at the turret top hatch. There are two new ones for this kit; one has bolted hinges, the other has welded hinges. Incredibly there are another three hatches marked as not for use! This leads me to an area where the modeller has to be cautious: the use of many sprues from the earlier models results in plenty of similar looking parts, but all the parts not for use are in blue on the front of the instruction sheet.

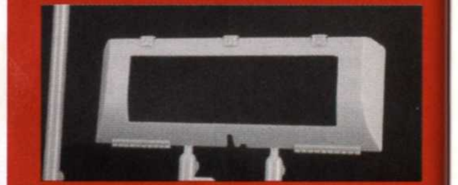
So to recap, this is a very well produced kit which is definitely steps ahead of the previous T-34 models and bodes well, not only for the announced 1942 hexagonal turret kit, but also for the SU-85 and SU-122 that Dragon must be planning and I am sure I am not the only one waiting for. It would be nice to finally put away the thirty something year old Tamiya kits that have given sterling service up to now. ■

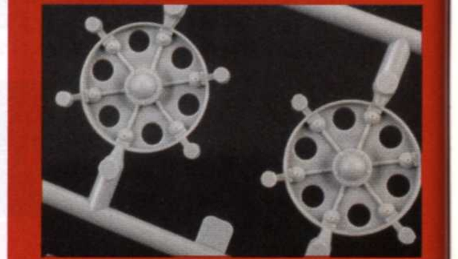
DRAGON
Magic Track

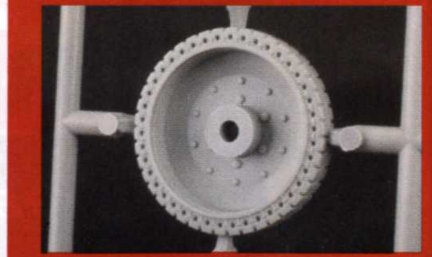


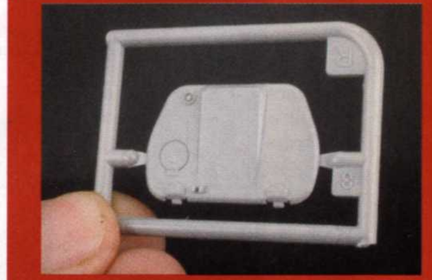


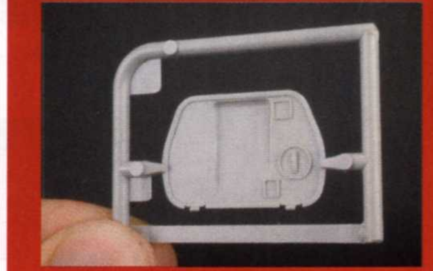












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31 Diary Dates

To have your event included on this page, send your details to:
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Tel:01525 222573·Fax:01525 222574·Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

January 11th
Bolton IPMS Model Bonanza 2009 at St Josephs RC High School, Chorley New Road, Horwich BL6 6HW. Bolton IPMS will be holdng their annual model Bonanza a week early in 2009. Free parking available as usual, along with hot and cold snacks, plenty of traders and some excellent Branch and SIG Displays. The themed table for 2009 is 'Stripes', however you may want to interpret that, please feel free to bring along any models you feel will fit in with the theme.

February 1st
Milton Keynes Scale Model Club will once again be hosting 'ModelKraft 2009' at the Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes.
For further Information please go to www.mksmc.co.uk

February 15th
HUDDERSFIELD 2000
The Greatest Model show in the North. Huddersfield Sports Centre, Southgate, Huddersfield HD1 1TW. Hosted by the International Plastic Modellers' Society.
Doors open 10.00 - 17.00
Admission £3.00 or £1.00 concessions. Contact: Alan Paul 07811 358355 or Andy Scholefield 07775 641315.

February 28th - March 1st
Trucks 'n' Tracks will be held at the Leas Cliff hall, Folkestone, Kent.
For further information please go to www.trucksntracks.com or contact Trevor Claringbold at trucksntracks@hotmail.com

March 14th/15th
After last year's very successful show, Southern Expo is back on March 14th and 15th 2009.
The show will be open from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4 pm on Sunday. As before the show will be held at Hornchurch Sports Centre, Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1ET.
Nearest Underground Station: Hornchurch (District Line)
Nearest Mainline Stations: Romford or Upminster
Bus Nos: 193, 365 or 248, 370.
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Or visit the website: http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/southernexpo

April 5th
Shropshire Model Show will be holding their annual show at the Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford.
Opening times are 10am to 4pm with free admission and parking.
For further info please contact: Gary Stevens on 01939 270481

April 19th
East Midlands Model Show 2009.
The Leisure Centre, Hinkley, Lecs.
£4.00 adults, £2.50 Children and OAPs. Open: 10am - 4.30pm
Many traders and club displays, refreshments and bar available, free carparking, easy disabled access and large open competition.
Contact: Simon Mepstead 01455 230952 (Shop hours).

Nottingham MAFVA is pleased to announce that its meetings are now held at a permanent venue and a regular time.
On the second Saturday of each month, from 12.30-3.30, you can find us at the meeting room at Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1AE.
We are a friendly and active group of modellers and if you are in the area and would like to come and join us, you can be assured of a warm welcome.
If you would like more information please contact;
Colin at colinrosenwould@hotmail.com

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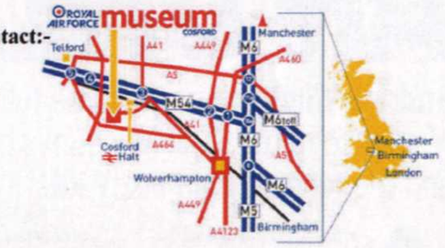

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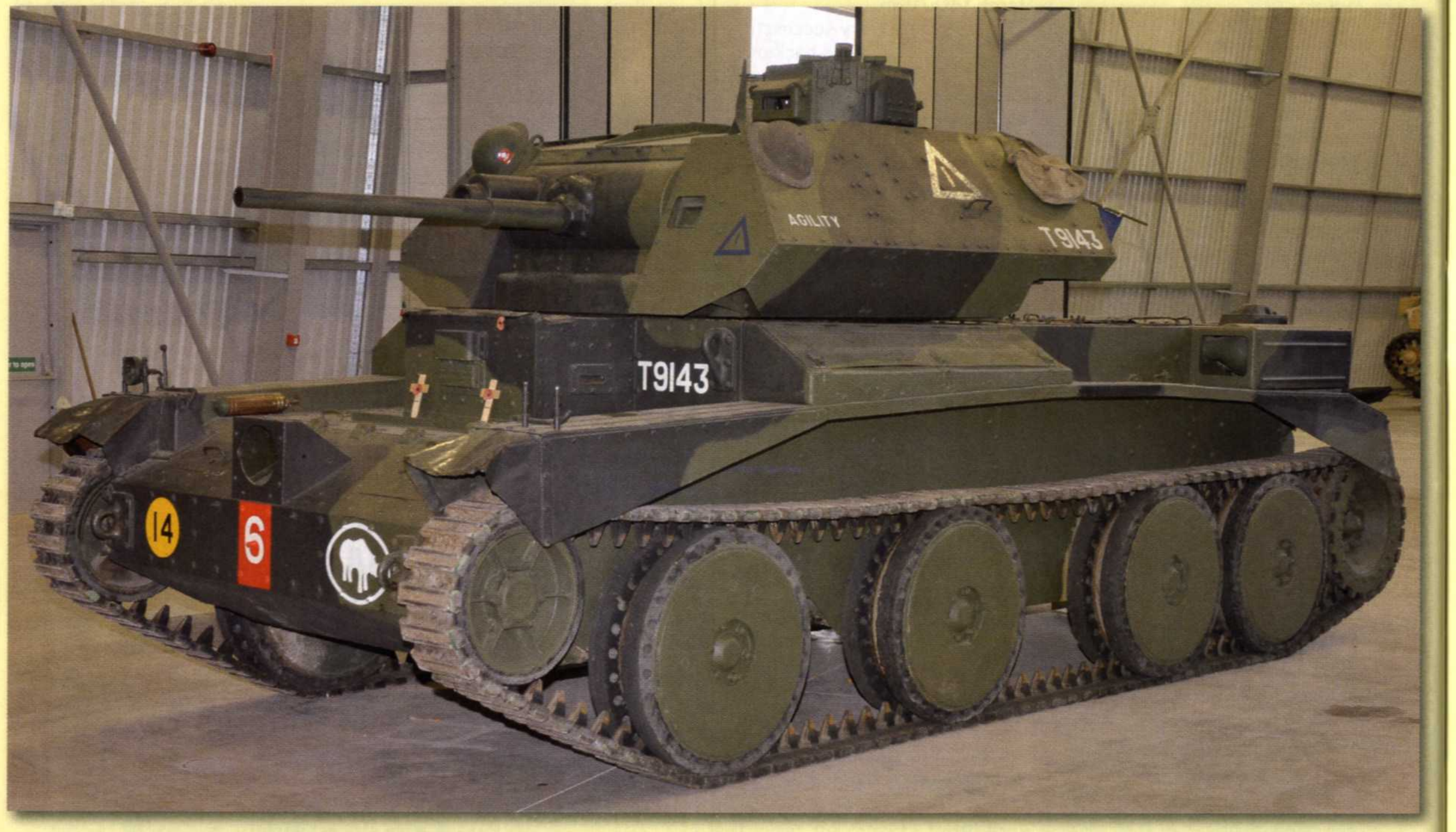
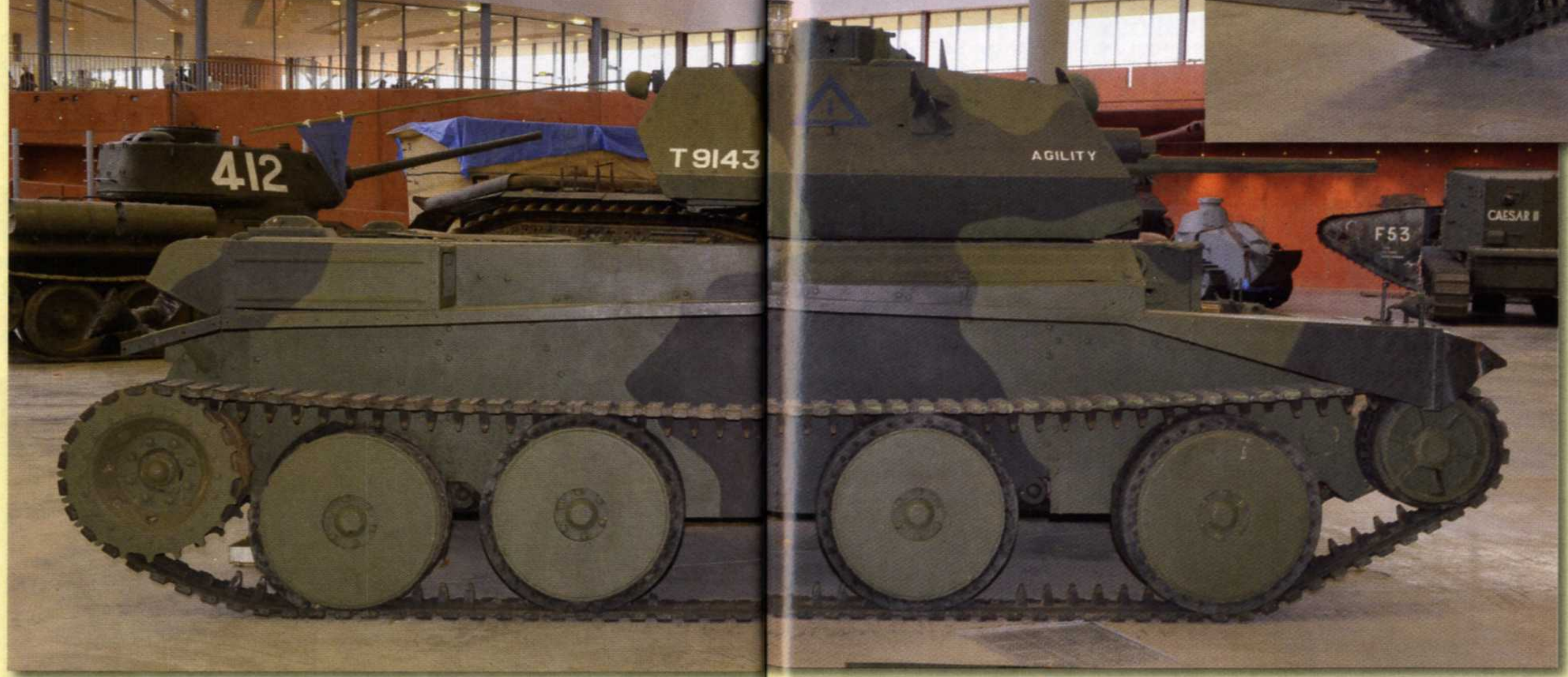


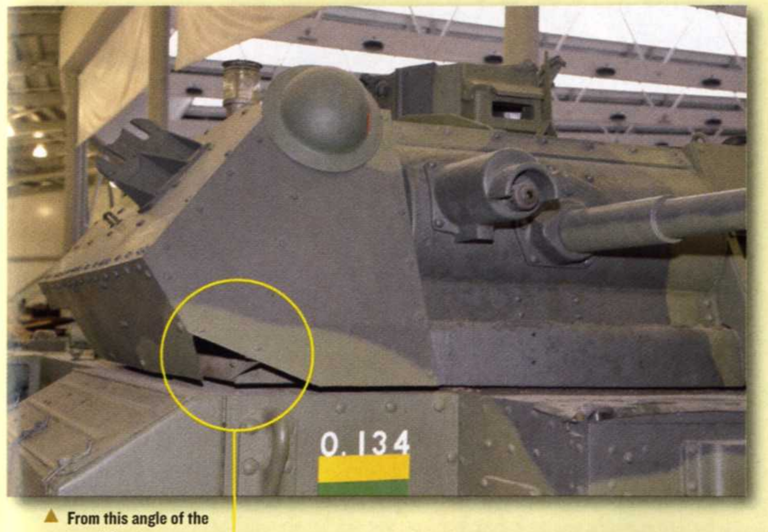
AN UNLUCKY CRUISER

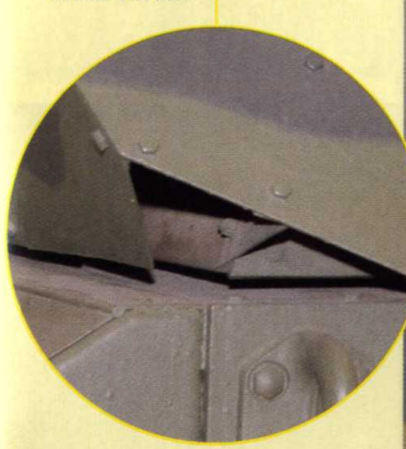
Andrew Willis brings us some full size reference on the British A13 Cruiser tank that's just taken up residence in the Tank Museum's brand new hall and it's just in time for the release of the Bronco Mk.III and the forthcoming Mk.IV kit.

Army doctrine between the first and second World war called for the need for both heavy slow infantry support tanks and lighter faster tanks. These lighter or Cruiser tanks (like the warships) were designed to be fast and mobile working independently of the slow-moving infantry and the heavier support tanks. The idea was that they would exploit the gaps made by the infantry tanks in the enemy's lines and attack lines of supply and communication in accordance with the theories of Hobart and Liddell-Hart. Sort of like a tracked version of the cavalry, thus speed was a critical factor and to achieve this, the early cruiser designs were both lightly armoured and armed. This emphasis on speed came with a drawback; to keep the speed up, the armour protection had to come down! At the time it was not well understood that lightly armoured vehicles would not survive on the modern battlefield. To compound this problem even further, not only were they thinly armoured but also the main gun was often a small calibre weapon with no real punch. Most cruisers were armed with only the quick fire (QF) two-pounder (40mm) gun, which at the time was classed as good anti-tank weapon! Power was supplied by a Nuffield Liberty V12 gasoline producing 340 HP and giving the A13 a top speed of 30mph (off-road 14mph). The Mk.III, the subject of Bronco's first release was used mainly for training within the UK and those sent into battle were lost in the French campaign of 1940, but a few were used in Greece and the North African campaign in 1940-41. 65 Mk.IIIs were converted to Mk.IV standard by the fitment of appliqué armour to the front, sides and rear of the turret. The Mk.IVs were used extensively during the Desert campaign of 1940-42. ■

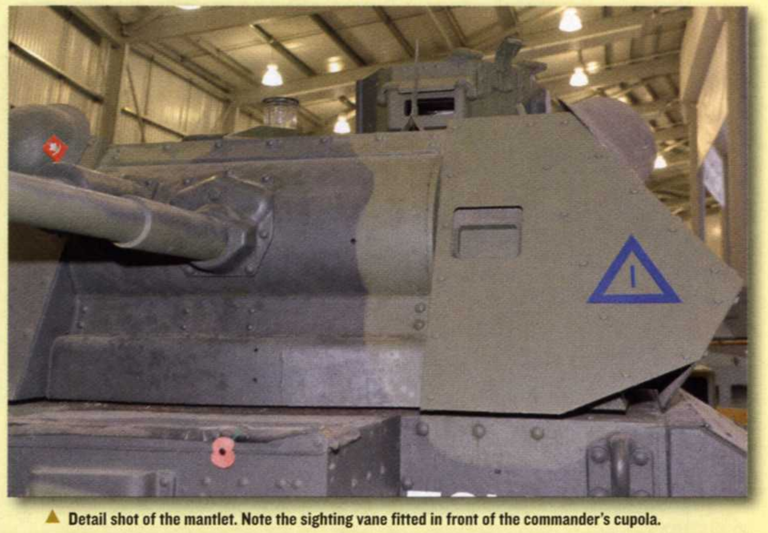


◄ In this side on view the irregular spacing of the Cristie suspension road wheels is clear to see. From this angle we can see the new hall is really taking shape and will be amazing when fully opened. Above the T34/85 is the seating area of the new cafe.

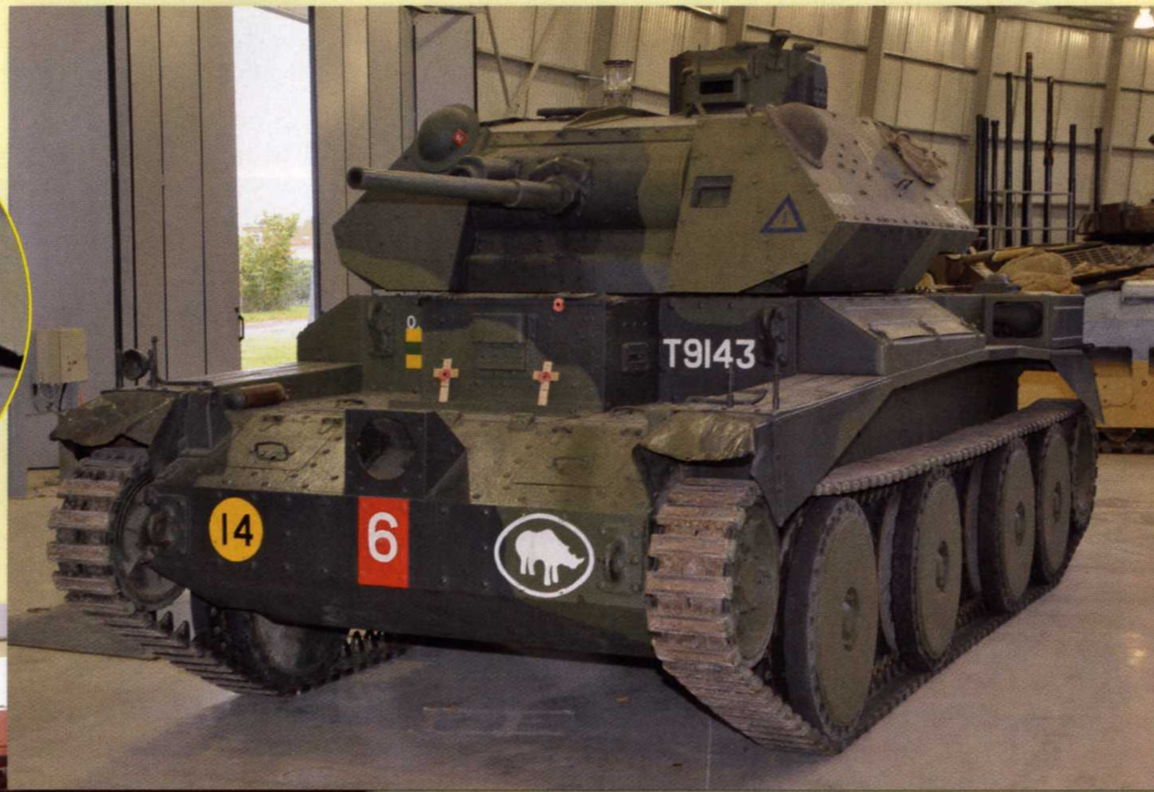




▲ From this angle of the turret front, we can see just how thin the appliqué armour panels are fitted to the sides.

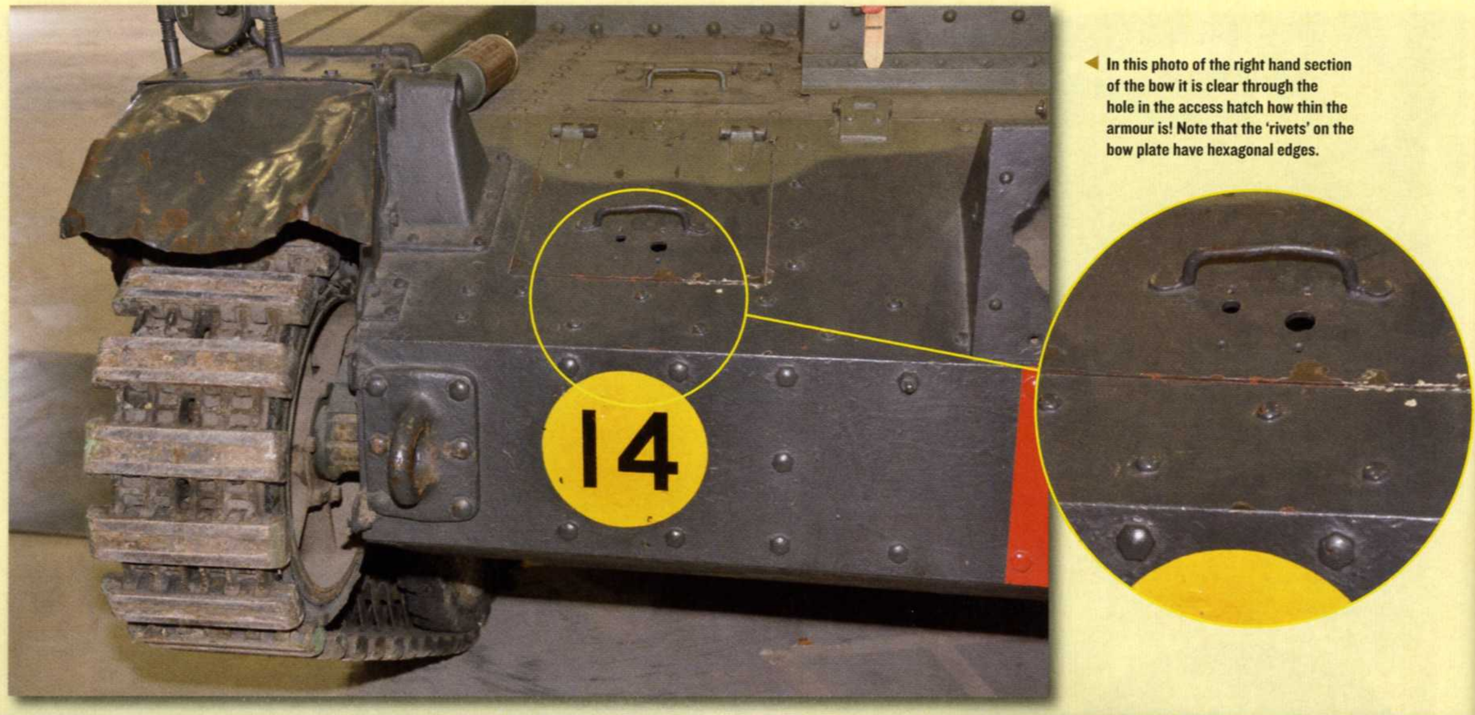


▲ Detail shot of the mantlet. Note the sighting vane fitted in front of the commander's cupola.

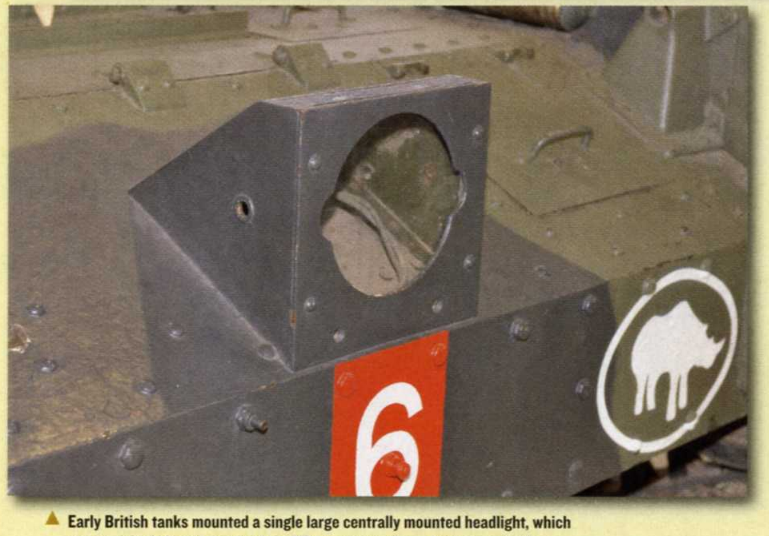


▲ The museum's A13 has been painted to represent a tank from the 1st Armoured Division, which formed part of the British Expeditionary Force in France 1940.

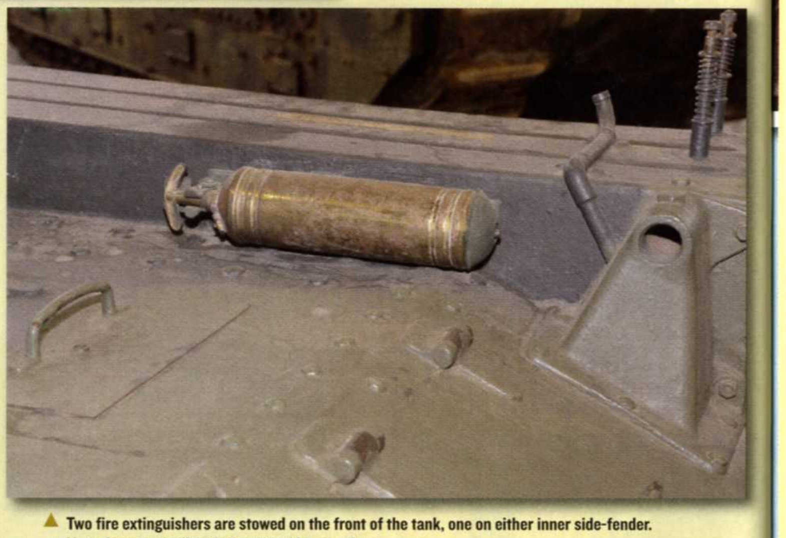
References - BRITISH A13 CRUISER TANK



In this photo of the right hand section of the bow it is clear through the hole in the access hatch how thin the armour is! Note that the 'rivets' on the bow plate have hexagonal edges.

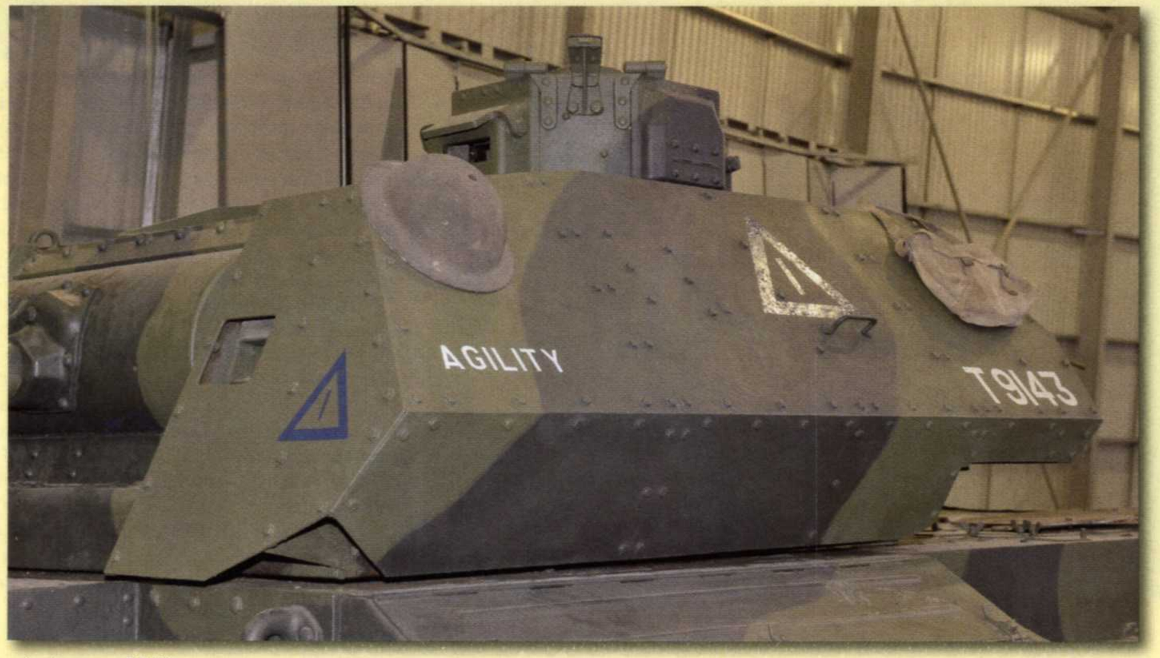


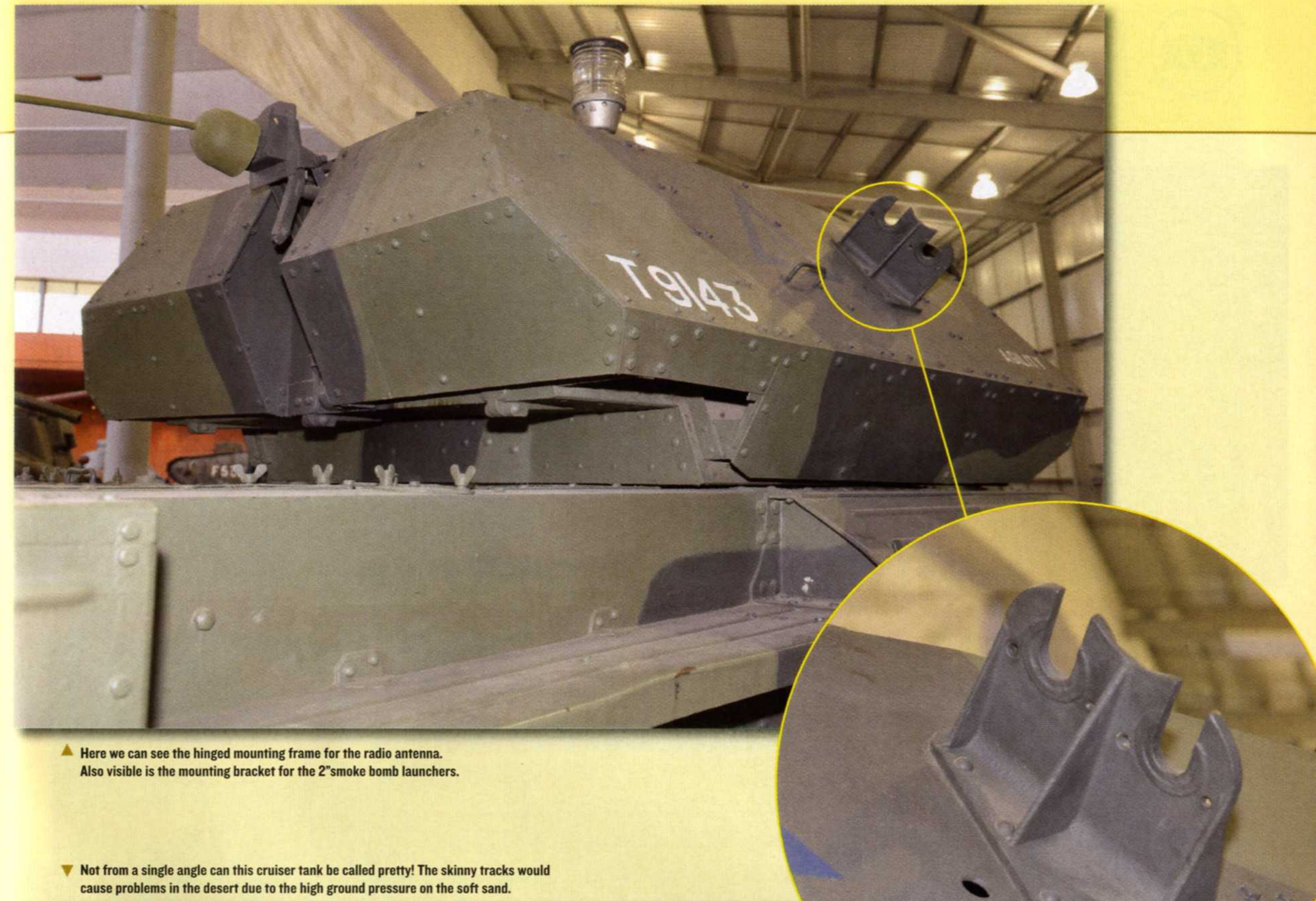
Early British tanks mounted a single large centrally mounted headlight, which unsurprisingly hasn't survived the 70 years since these tanks were built.



Two fire extinguishers are stowed on the front of the tank, one on either inner side-fender. Note these are still in their original brass colour.

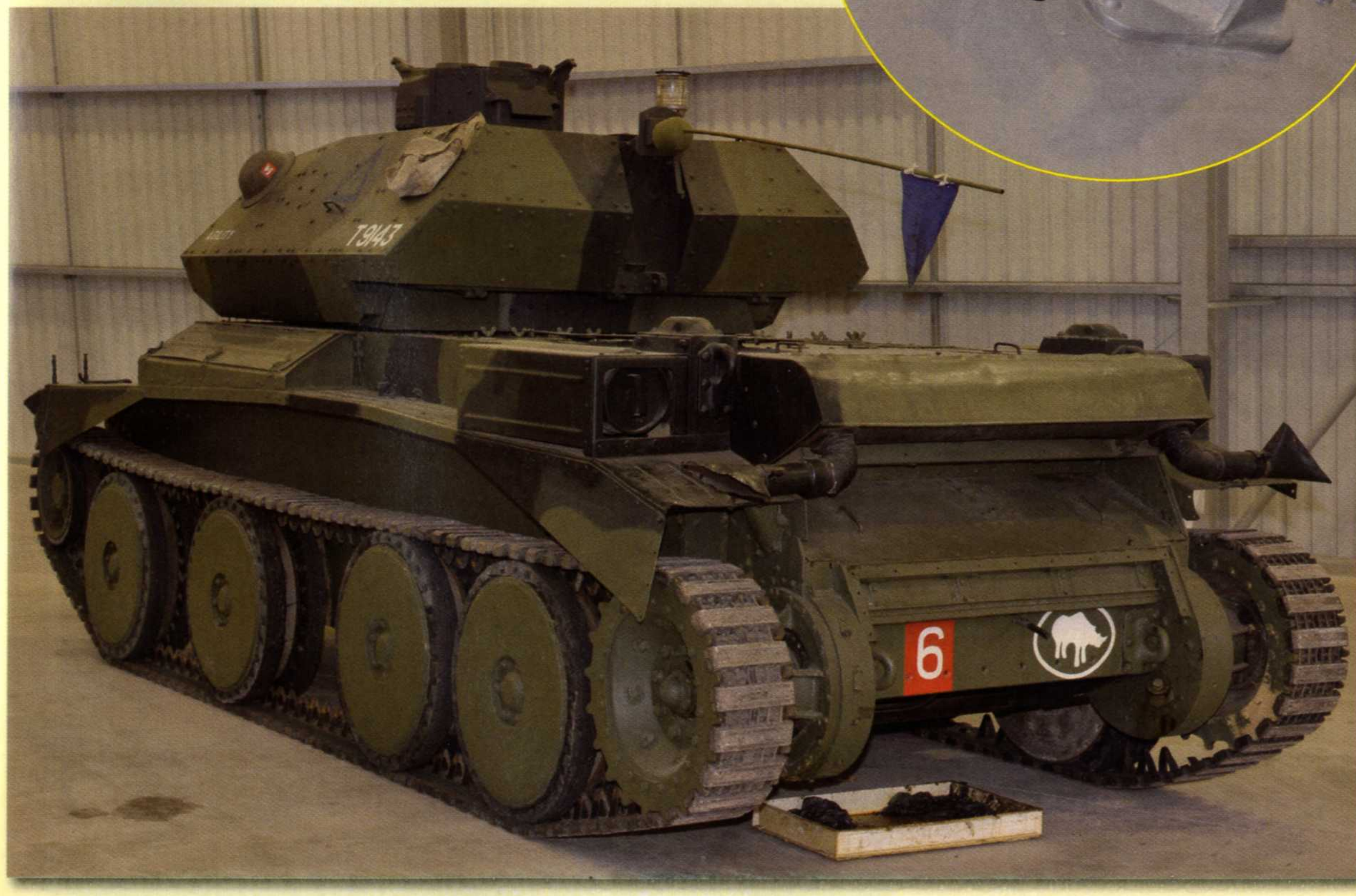
Turret details. The bracket mounted at the top centre of the cupola is the hatch stop.



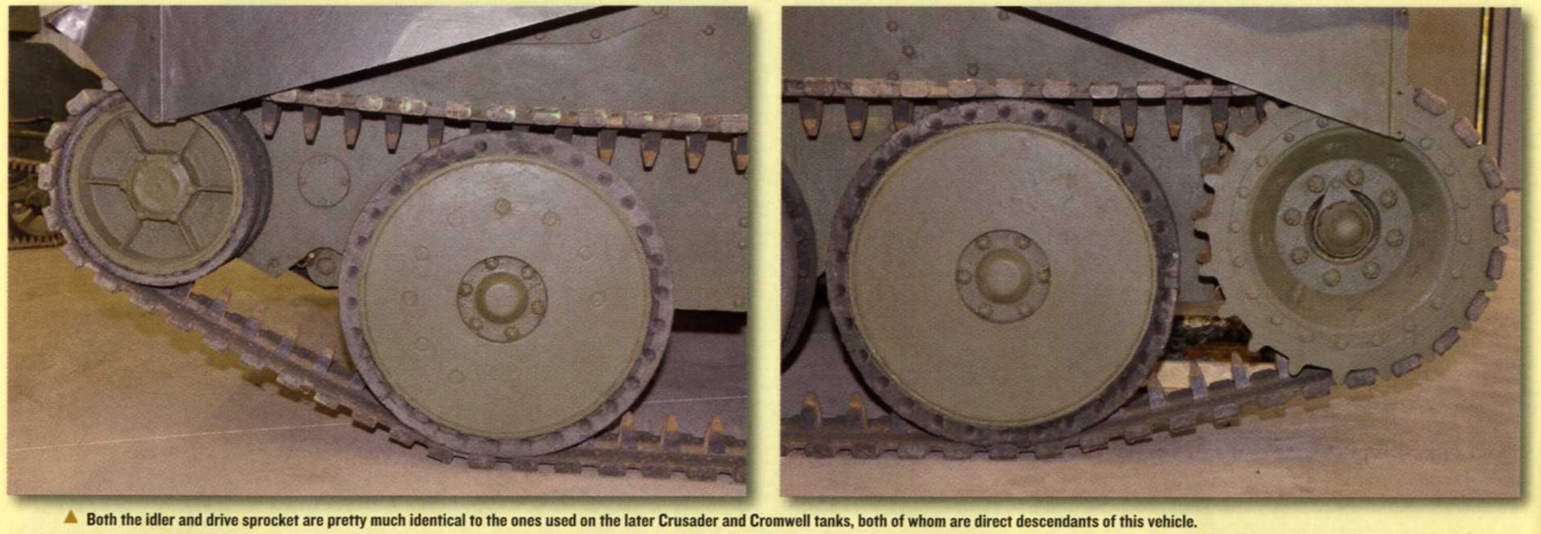


Here we can see the hinged mounting frame for the radio antenna. Also visible is the mounting bracket for the 2"smoke bomb launchers.

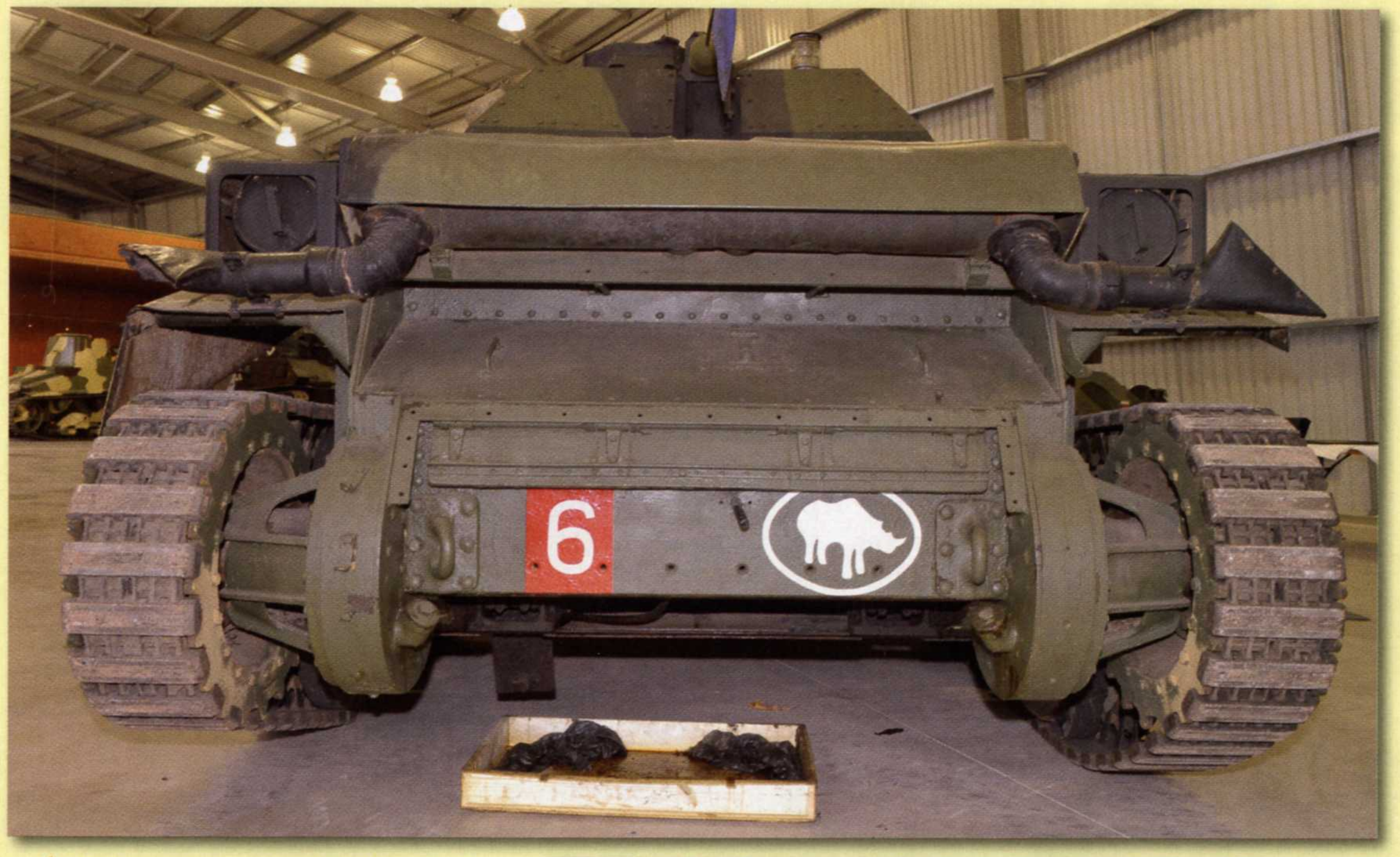
Not from a single angle can this cruiser tank be called pretty! The skinny tracks would cause problems in the desert due to the high ground pressure on the soft sand.



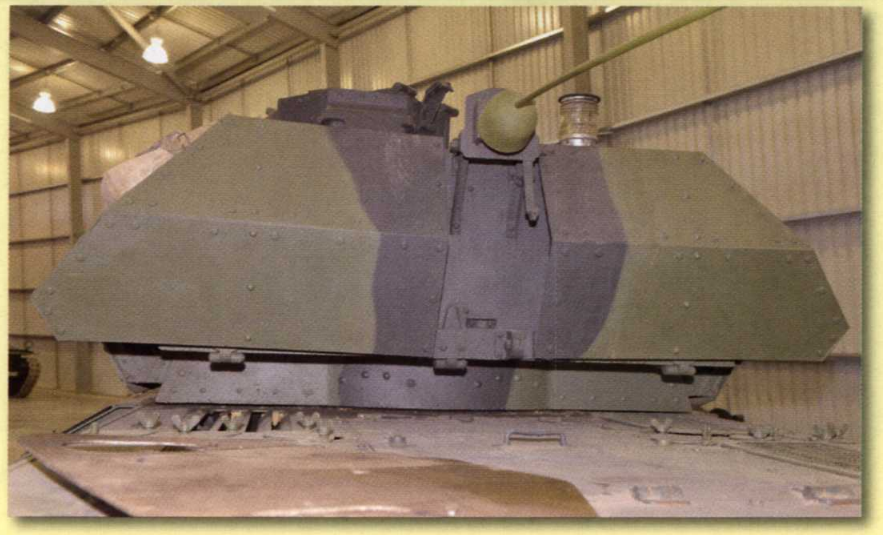
References - BRITISH A13 CRUISER TANK



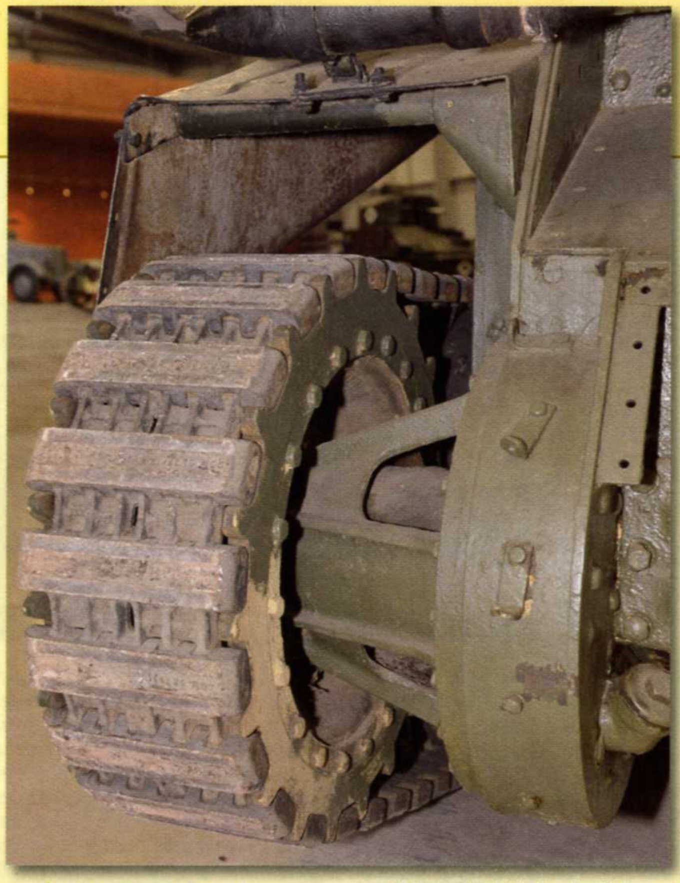
▲ Both the idler and drive sprocket are pretty much identical to the ones used on the later Crusader and Cromwell tanks, both of whom are direct descendants of this vehicle.



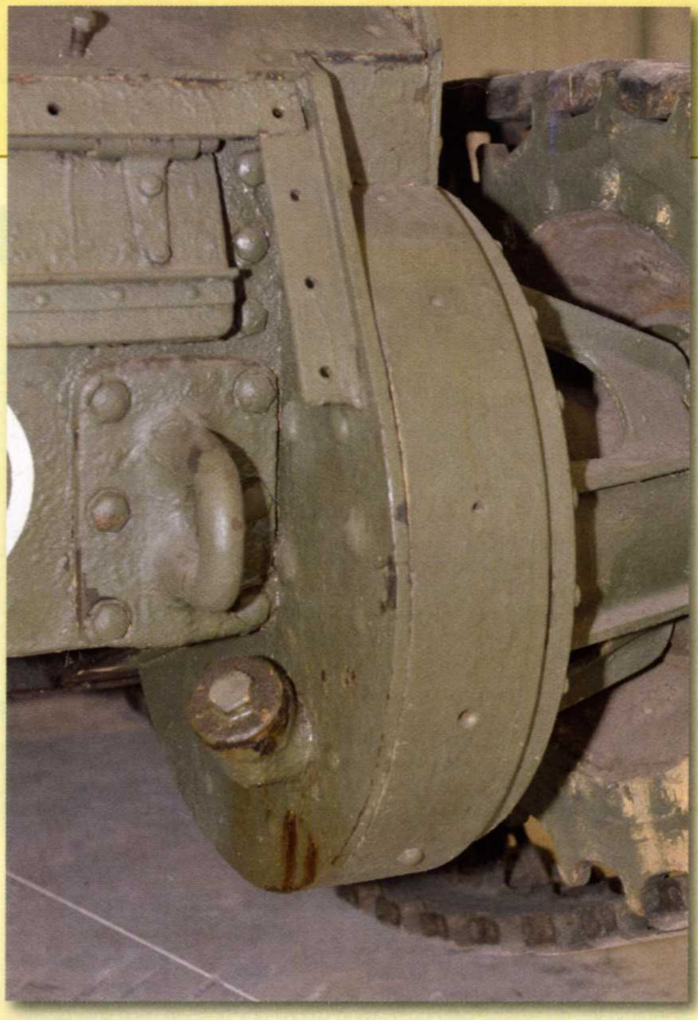
▲ The flap hanging down from the bottom left hand side of the hull is the cover for one of the two rear mounted smoke generators.



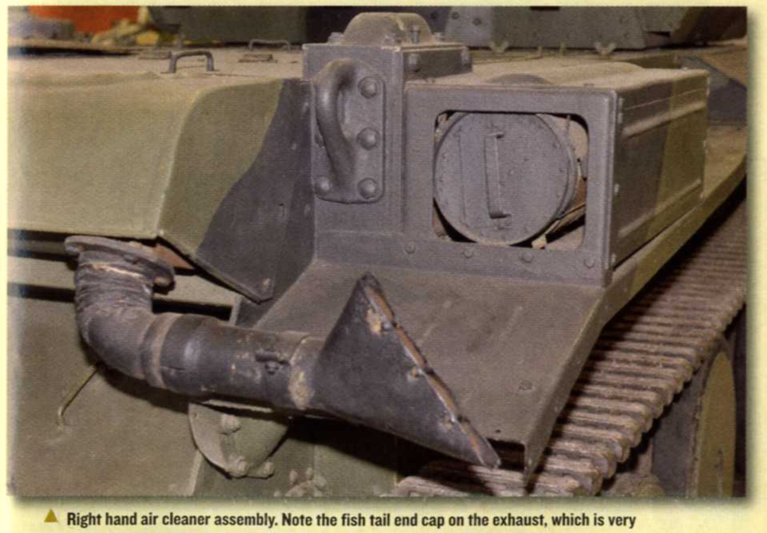
Turret rear showing the three hinges along the bottom edge. Note the wing nuts securing the elliptical access plates in place on the engine deck. ▶



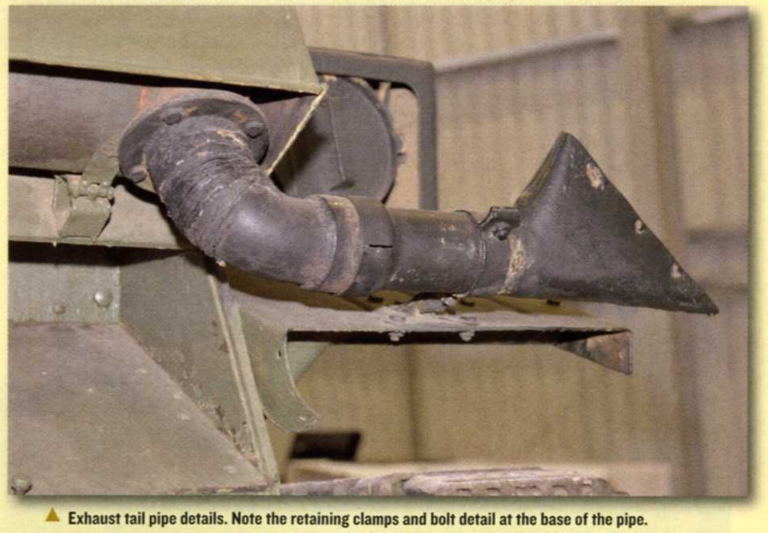
▲ Left hand sprocket and hub assembly.



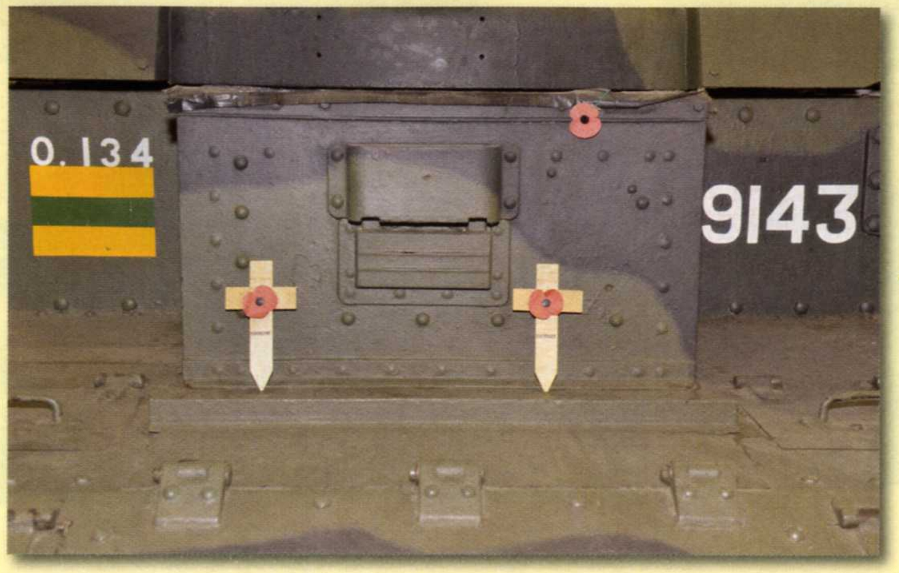
Right hand final drive housing, the large gear oil filler cap is clearly visible at the bottom of the unit. The rear cover plate is missing from the hull, so offers an otherwise hidden view of the hinged inner covers. ▶



▲ Right hand air cleaner assembly. Note the fish tail end cap on the exhaust, which is very similar in design to the type used on the much later Centurion main battle tank.

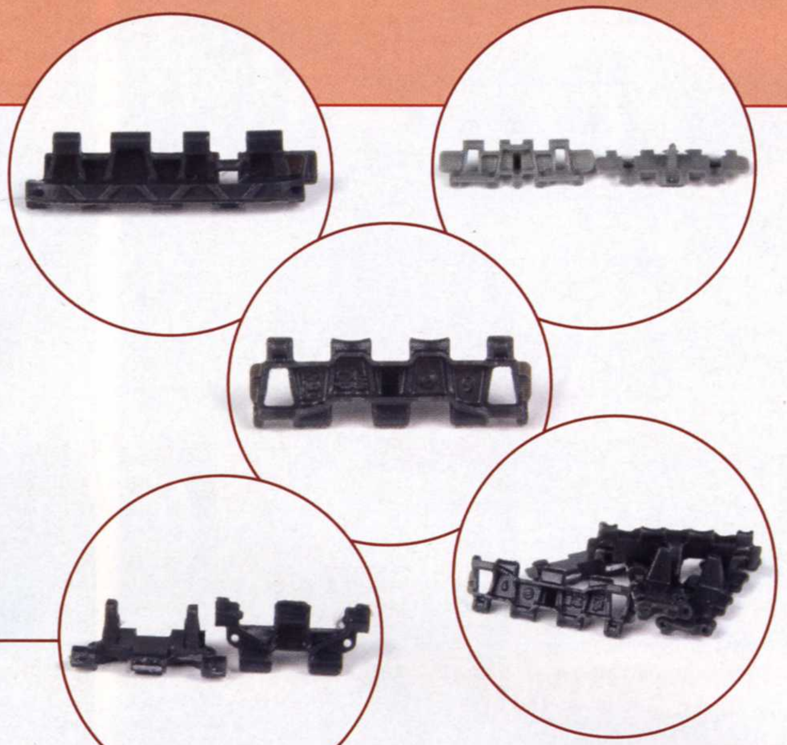


▲ Exhaust tail pipe details. Note the retaining clamps and bolt detail at the base of the pipe.



◀ The poppies are a sobering reminder of the men who served and lost their lives in these under armoured and under armed vehicles.

Incoming



MASTERCLUB

1:35 WORKING AND CLICK TOGETHER RESIN TRACK SETS

- **PZ. KPFW. VI TIGER (LATE TRACK) MC135005W**
- **PZ. KPFW. VI TIGER (INITIAL TRACK) MC135007W**
- **T-34/76 1942 MC135022W**
- **KV-1 AND KV-2 MC135027W**
- **T-54, T-55, T-62 (OMSH TYPE) MC135048W**
- **T-70M MC135035CL**
- **MT-LB/2S1 "GVOZDIKA" LATE TRACK (RMSH TYPE) MC135O46CL**

In issue 31 we featured the first of these highly detailed individual resin working track sets. As I stated last time, the tracks are beautifully detailed and look amazing, the only problem is that the time it will take to assemble them is inordinate, due to the cleanup. Having to drill tiny holes in each link, clean up the remains of the casting plug from each and then insert tiny resin pins into the ends of each link to join them all together! The second type of track Masterclub offer are their 'click' together range, these are much quicker to assemble but on the samples I put together, it didn't hold up too well to any handling and the sections started to come apart.

Don't get me wrong the tracks look amazing, the detail and crispness of the casting is without fault, but for me personally, life is too short to spend it all building a single set of resin tracks.

Available from www.nordlandmodels.com

7/10 - The Editor

PERFECT SCALE MODELLBAU

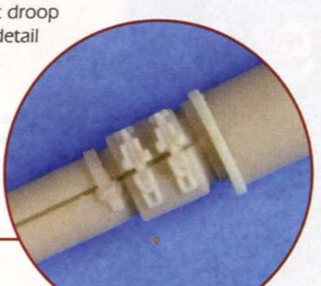
1:35 105MM L7 LEOPARD 1 GUN BARREL ITEM NO. 35021

New from this German company comes a pretty handy resin barrel designed to replace those old two-part plastic barrels that you get with the old Leopard kits from Tamiya and Italeri. The new barrel has a metal rod through its centre so it won't droop over time and it features some exquisite detail around the barrel sleeve clamps, so there is no need for fiddly etched brass parts, which are included in some replacement barrels to recreate this feature.

Very highly recommended.

Available from www.perfect-scale.com

10/10 - Graeme Carruthers



D TOYS
Creative Toys
M1126 Stryker Wheel Set
Super Swamper Pattern Wheels
Humvee Aggressive Pattern Wheels
M1126 Stryker
Blue Force Tracker Kit
U.S Modern Accessories Set
K1A1 Conversion Kit + Accessories
1/72
1/35

D TOYS

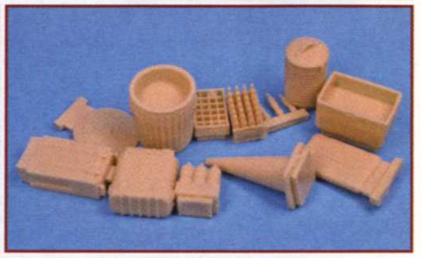
RESIN DETAIL SETS AND ACCESSORIES

- **DT72 001 M1126 STRYKER WHEELS SET (FOR ACADEMY)**
- **DT35 001 HUMVEE AGGRESSIVE PATTERN WHEELS**
- **DT35 002 SUPER SWAMPER PATTERN WHEELS**
- **DT35 003 BLUE FORCE TRACKER KIT (FOR TAMIYA)**
- **DT35 004 M1126 STRYKER LAV INFRARED WHEELS**
- **DT35 005 K1A1 CONVERSION SET AND ACCESSORIES (FOR ACADEMY)**
- **DT35 006 US MODERN ACCESSORIES**
- **DT35 007 LAV WHEEL SET**

D Toys are a new company from Korea who have produced a whole bunch of resin sets for modern vehicles mostly in 1:35 but they have also included a nice set of small scale Stryker wheels. All the sets are cleanly cast in a pale grey resin with no casting seams or air bubbles visible. There are no instructions provided, so you will have to use the box art as your guide but in the case of the wheel sets you should be able to work out where things go. Highly recommended.

Available from www.dtoys.co.kr

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers



MASTERS
Productions
MP35050
UPDATE FOR M4
HIGH SPEED TRACTOR

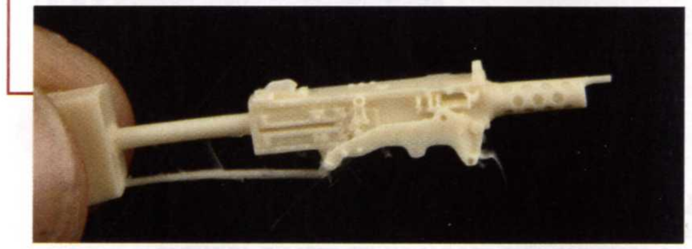
MASTER PRODUCTIONS

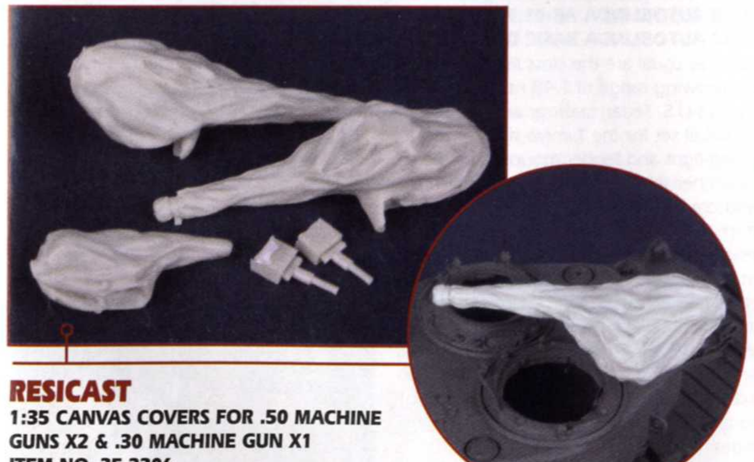
1:35 UPDATE FOR M4 HIGH SPEED TRACTOR ITEM NO. MP35050

Masters Productions from France have just produced an update set for the recently released HobbyBoss High Speed Tractor. This resin set gives you highly detailed replacement parts for the interior seating, the roof mounted .50-cal and its ring mount and the pioneer tools. Of special note is the texture and moulding on the seats which are all misshapen and look like they have been used by many a soldier's backside! The seats also have the seat belts moulded in place, a feature missing from the HobbyBoss kit. This is a vast improvement on the identical plastic seat blocks that are provided in the original base kit. Highly recommended.

Available from www.scalelink.co.uk

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers





RESICAST

1:35 CANVAS COVERS FOR .50 MACHINE GUNS X2 & .30 MACHINE GUN X1

ITEM NO. 35.2306

This is one of those little sets which is perfect for adding that individual touch to a model and fitting one of these covered .30 or .50-cal machine guns really does change the look your latest Allied armour or soft skin project. As usual the casting is faultless and Resicast have done a great job of realistically recreating the canvas covers with all their folds and creases. Small pegs are included for the two 'fifties', which fit into the base of the guns and act as the mounting posts. The bottom of the peg can then be trimmed to fit the cupola ring or pintle as needed.

I really like this set and it's one of those items that starts the imagination running riot, I can picture Sherman's all waterproofed and fitted with deep wading gear being loaded on to an Accurate Armour LCT prior to D-Day. OK, this maybe a little excessive and expensive but it's a great way of making use of this set it doesn't cost anything to dream! Thoroughly recommended.

Available from www.resicast.com

10/10 - The Editor

USMC LAV-R
1/72 SCALE
TRUMPETER

TRUMPETER

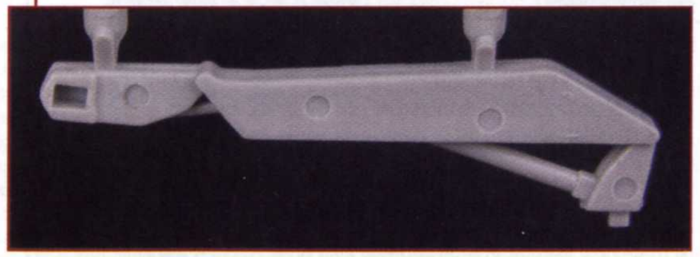
1:72 USMC LAV-R ITEM NO 07269

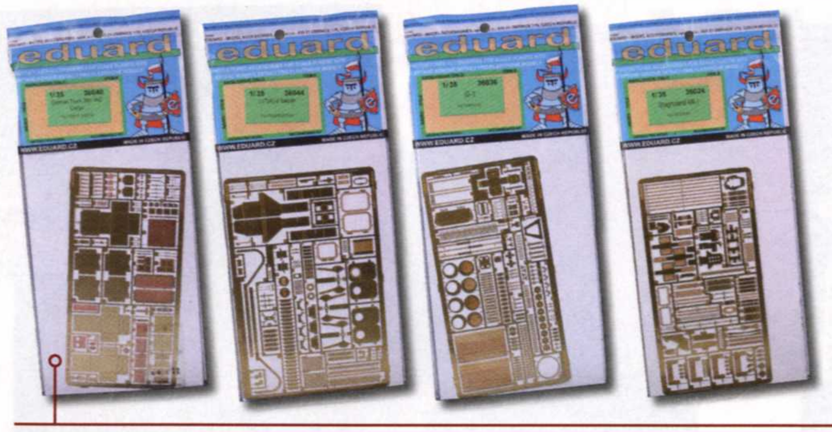
Following on from their earlier release of the LAV-25, Trumpeter have released the recovery version, the LAV-R, with its distinctive roof mounted crane and raised rear compartment. The kit itself consists of 70 plastic parts and a set of eight vinyl tyres. As with most Trumpeter kits, the mouldings are well detailed and crisp although there are some ejector pin marks evident mostly on the inner surfaces. Unfortunately one area that will need to be addressed is on the crane jib which suffers from four of them, which will definitely need filling and sanding. That said the three piece crane looks pretty good but you can only depict it in the stowed position. There is also a nicely rendered M240 machine gun to fit on the commander's cupola. One drawback of this kit and this seems to be common amongst a lot of Trumpeter kits is the fact that all the hatches are moulded closed which is a real shame. Only one marking and colour scheme option is included for a vehicle in standard NATO three colour camouflage. Overall with a little work this builds into a nice kit. Recommended.

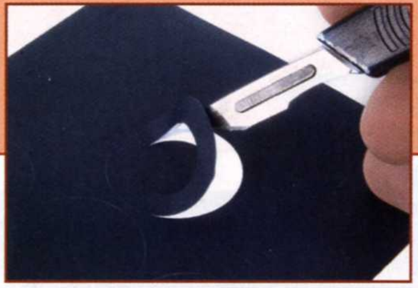
Available from all good model shops.

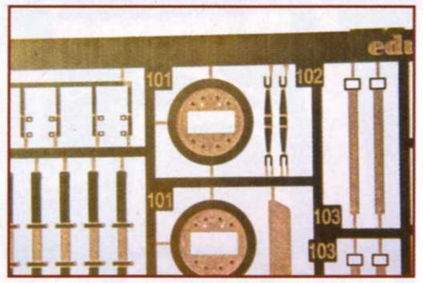
Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond Ltd.

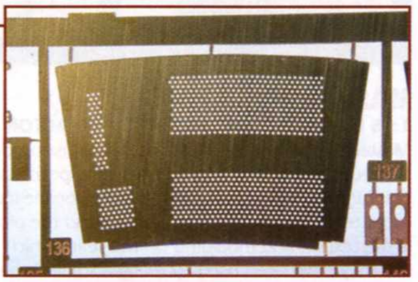
7/10 - Jeff Adams

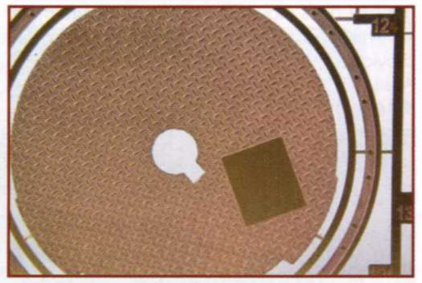












EDUARD

ETCHED BRASS DETAILING SETS

- **STAGHOUND MK.1 (ITALERI KIT) ITEM NO. 36024**
- **IS-3 (FOR TAMIYA KIT) ITEM NO. 36036**
- **GERMAN TRUCK 3TON 4X2 CARGO (FOR TAMIYA 35291) ITEM NO. 36040**
- **GERMAN TRUCK 3TON 4X2 CARGO FLOOR (FOR TAMIYA 35291) ITEM NO. 36041**
- **IS-3 TOOL BOXES AND FENDERS (FOR TAMIYA KIT) ITEM NO. 36042**
- **LVT (A)-2 SAIPAN (FOR ITALERI 6470) ITEM NO. 36044**
- **WHEEL MASKS FOR GERMAN TRUCK 3TON 4X2 CARGO (FOR TAMIYA 35291) ITEM NO. XT151**

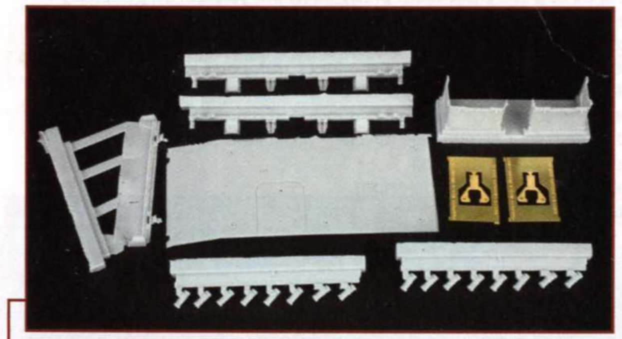
We certainly have a varied selection of detailing sets in from Eduard, including an entirely new cargo bed for the Tamiya Opel Blitz in etched brass. This set will certainly keep you busy for a few evenings!

We also have a couple of nice sets for Tamiya's very nice, if slightly simplified JS-3, the first is a full detailing set, which contains everything you need to super detail Stalin's Giant. The second set for the JS offers new hull side plates to turn the Tamiya kit into the JS-3 M which featured new side fenders with built in stowage bins.

My personal favourites are the sets for Italeri's LVT (A)-2 Amtrac and Staghound Mk.1, both sets will really bring out the best in these two kits without breaking the bank. As a final point I'm glad to see Eduard have introduced a slightly thicker gauge brass for the Opel cargo bed and JS-3 fender set, which will mean they will stand up better to the odd bit of accidental rough handling.

Available in the UK from www.lsamodels.co.uk and direct from www.eduard.cz

10/10 - The Editor



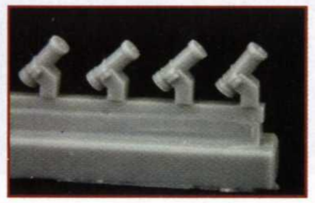
PERFECT SCALE MODELLBAU

1:35 LEOPARD 2A6M CONVERSION KIT ITEM NO. 35014

This conversion set from those Bavarian chaps at Perfect Scale is designed to upgrade the Tamiya Leopard 2 A6 kit. Since the release of the Tamiya kit the tank has been upgraded with a belly armour plate, new smoke discharger arrays, front tracks, dust guards and a dust guard across the front of the hull. This upgrade set provides all these new features in resin and two etch brass pieces. Cleanly cast in a grey resin the pieces are well detailed and should provide no difficulty for the average modeller to fit. Although designed for the Bundeswehr Leopards you will need this and a few other available and nearly available sets if you are attempting to make the slat armoured Canadian Leopard 2s currently used in Afghanistan. Highly recommended.

Available from www.perfect-scale.com

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers

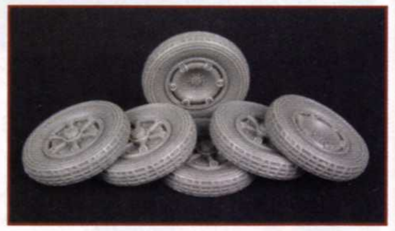


HAULER MODEL ACCESSORIES

1:48 RESIN AND ETCHED BRASS DETAILING SETS

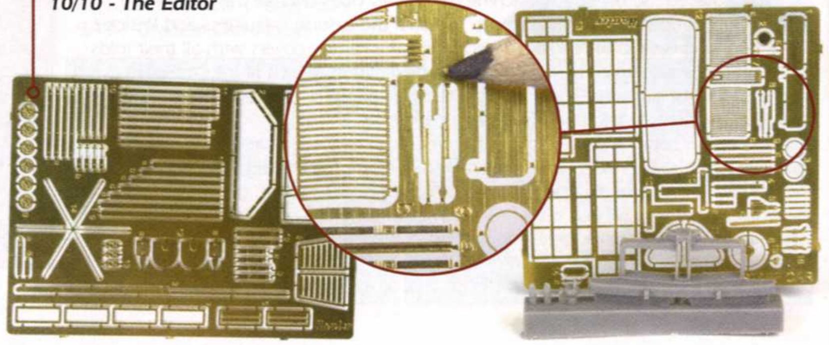
- **1:48 U.S. STAFF CAR 1942 FOR TAMIYA KIT ITEM NO. HLX48262**
- **1:48 AUTOBLINDA AB-41 WHEELS FOR SUPERMODEL/TAMIYA ITEM NO. HLX48263**
- **1:48 AUTOBLINDA BASIC DETAIL SET (SUPERMODEL) ITEM NO. HLX48252**

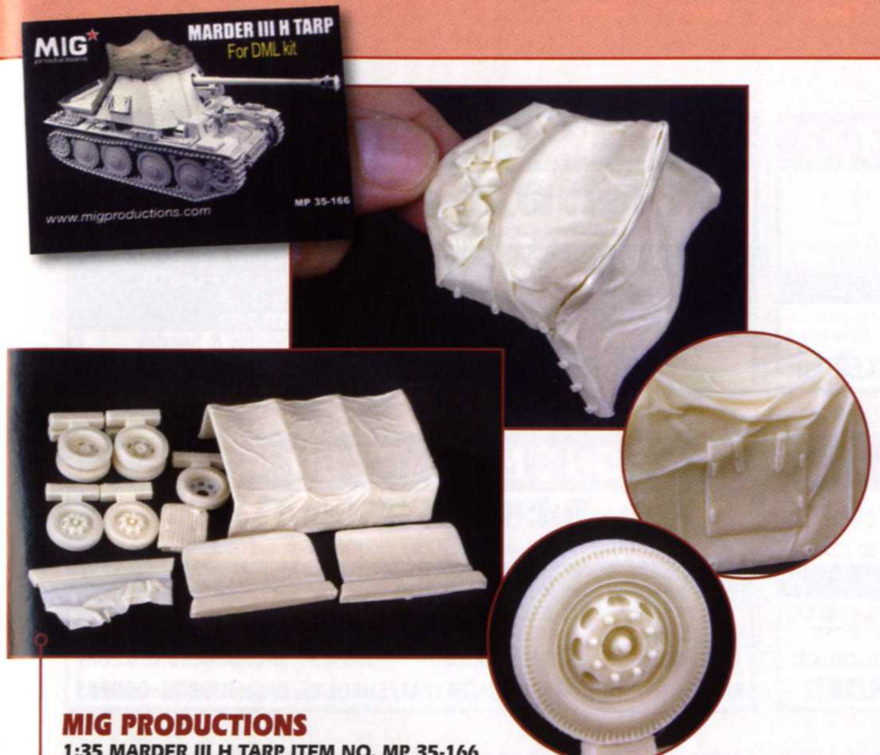
Hauler as usual are the class leaders when it comes to detailing and update sets for the ever growing range of 1:48 military vehicles and this month we see sets to improve Tamiya's U.S. Sedan staff car and the Supermodel kit of the Italian AB-41 armoured car. The detail set for the Tamiya staff car includes a new resin radiator surround, blackout driving-light and fender mounted sidelights. These parts are complemented by a comprehensive etched brass fret, which contains all manner of finely detailed parts, from windscreen wipers and window frames to steering wheel and ultra thin radiator grilles, which are designed to fit neatly into the new resin surround. The second two sets are designed to titivate the AB-41 from the Supermodel, unfortunately this is not a model I am familiar with, but I guess with Hauler producing both a large 1:48 scale etched brass set and a new set of resin wheels, the base kit needed a bit of help in the detailing department? The wheels are exceptional as can be seen from the accompanying photo and are a good example of the standard of the products produced by Hauler. Highly recommended.



Available from Parabellum models in the UK and direct from www.hauler.cz

10/10 - The Editor





MIG PRODUCTIONS

1:35 MARDER III H TARP ITEM NO. MP 35-166
1:35 OPEL BLITZ WINTER UPGRADE SET ITEM NO. 35-169

Due to lack of space last issue we had to leave out these two items from Mig Productions, I think it would have been unfair to squeeze them in as part of the list without including any photographs.

So I thought it best to cover them in more detail this issue where we can show them off in all their glory. First we have a beautifully mastered two-piece cast-resin tarpaulin for the Dragon Marder III Ausf. H. At first glance this may seem an odd accessory, as it is designed to hide all the effort Dragon have put into detailing the interior of their kit, but this 'tarp' does offer some excellent diorama potential with a little imagination. Failing that it's a great way to hide the interior if you have had a bit of a disaster during the building or painting and need to hide it, or are contemplating binning the kit!

The second and my personal favourite is the winter upgrade for the Tamiya Opel Blitz, this set includes a full tarpaulin with option of either closed or open tailgate flap, quilted radiator cover and seven gorgeous civilian pattern tyres. The level of detail throughout the castings is simply stunning. Definitely another of those sets that makes me want to buy the kit just to make use of this upgrade. Unreservedly recommended.

Available from www.migproductions.com and in the UK from Creative Models.

10/10 - The Editor

NEOGRADE

RESIN DETAIL SETS

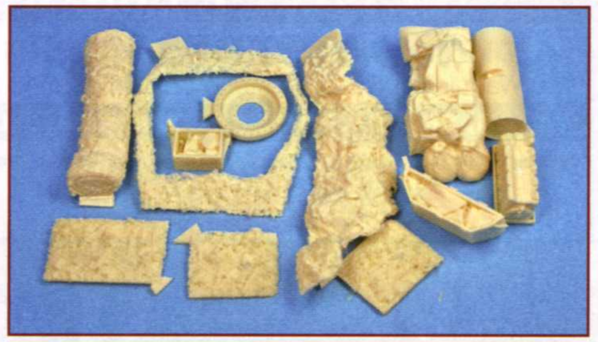
- **STUG III AUSF F ACCESSORY SET ITEM NO. TA 0001**
- **CROMWELL MK. IV ITEM NO. TA 0009**
- **CENTAUR CS MK. IV ITEM NO. TA 0010**
- **R.O.K. ARMY K1A1 ITEM NO. TA 0011**

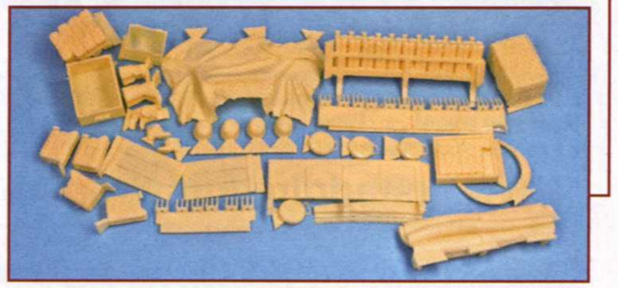
Another four more sets from the Korean company Neograde, have made their way from out of the Far East. These are all resin affairs and the little black boxes are full of various well-cast and sharply detailed packs, boxes and drop-on pieces to fit onto their base kits. Both the Cromwell and Centaur sets should be inter-changeable as the base kits are very similar. The Cromwell set includes a number of resin pieces that represent a draped camouflaged net with hessian strips as seen on many wartime photographs. I am not sure how effective creating this in resin will be but I would like to see a well-painted example to be proved wrong.

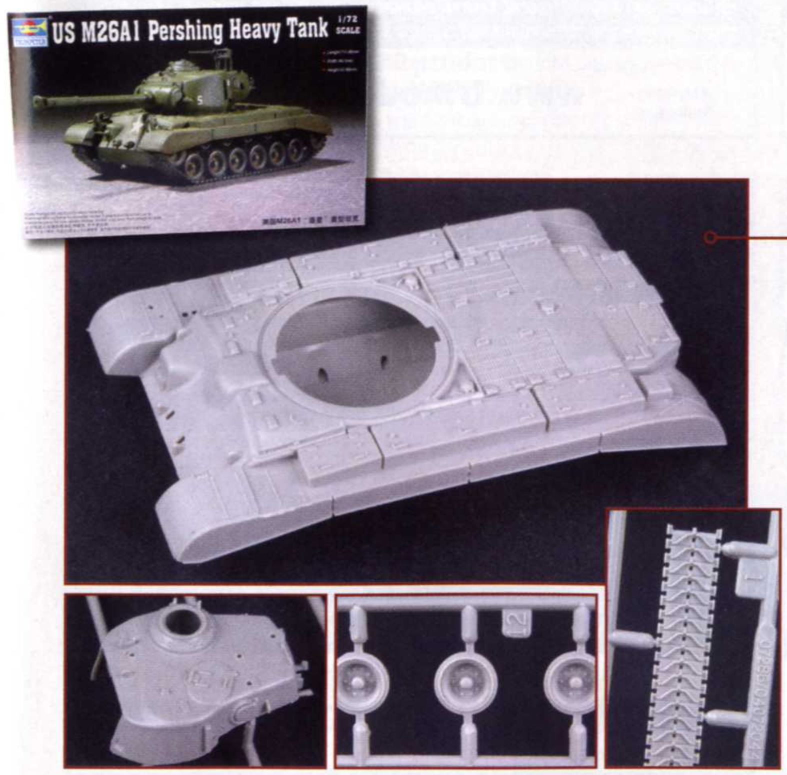
The K1A1 set contains a particularly large amount of boxes, crates, packs, shells and track links to festoon the new Academy kit with and will certainly busy up an otherwise rather bland looking modern tank. Highly recommended.

Available from www.neograde.net

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers







TRUMPETER

1:72 M26A1 PERSHING HEAVY TANK ITEM NO. 07286

This kit is probably one of the most eagerly awaited Braille scale releases of 2008 and fills a big gap for any builder of US World War 2 armour and is the M26 Pershing. This release from Trumpeter is in fact the M26A1 version and consists of 168 plastic parts. All of the parts are crisply moulded and well detailed although as with the LAV-R, ejector pin marks are evident, but thankfully most will be hidden on the finished model, however the inner face of the 'link and length' tracks are covered in them, which is annoying. Pin marks aside, the tracks are highly detailed and being 'link and length' will please the majority of modellers. Other highlights of this kit include nicely detailed road wheels and a well moulded .50-cal machine gun, you can also depict the commander's hatch in the open position but not the loader's! You also get a choice of 90mm gun barrels so that the modeller with a bit of work should be able to back date this kit to the T26E3 which saw action in the closing stages of the war but as usual, please consult your references. Only one marking option is included finished in overall olive drab and again the builder is given no clue about which unit it belongs. Criticisms aside this is still a great little kit, which I cannot wait to build. Highly Recommended.

Available from all good model shops.

Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond Ltd.

8/10 - Jeff Adams

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Next Issue

On sale January 1st 2009

"RAM HIM!!!!!"

Matt Edwards uses a famous WWII photo to recreate the scene in 1:35 scale.

COOL CAT

Kev Smith gets to grips with Dragon's latest Jagdpanther by adding the missing zimmerit and placing it into a simple setting.

FLAK STAR

In issue 3 Andy King built the rather basic Alan Hobbies Flakpanzer 38, now he gets his hands on Tristar's state of the art version.

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...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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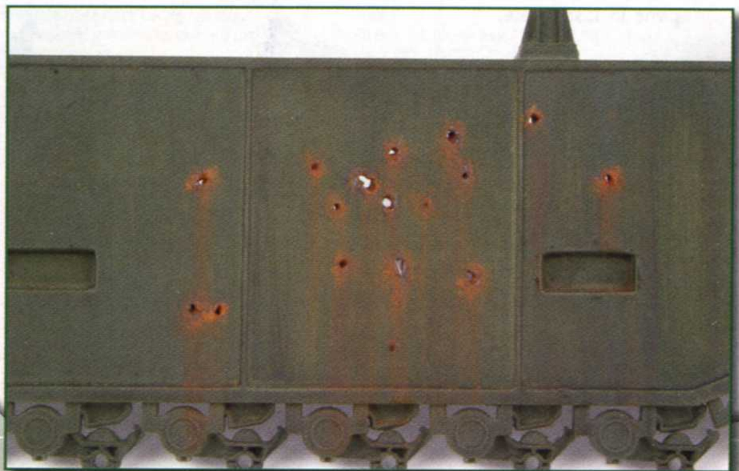
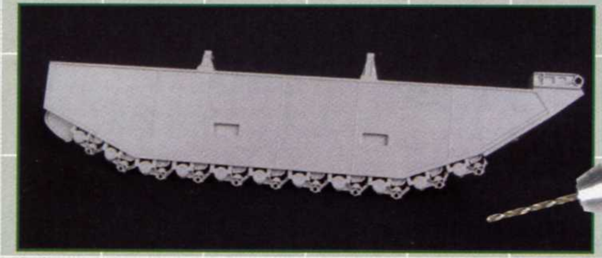
SOFT SKIN BATTLE DAMAGE PART 1

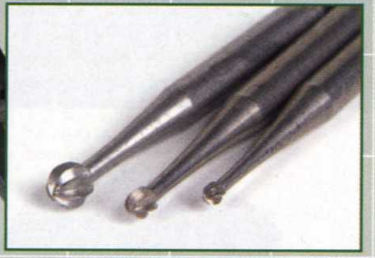
This month we will show how to create bullet and shrapnel damage to lightly armoured and soft skin unarmoured vehicles.



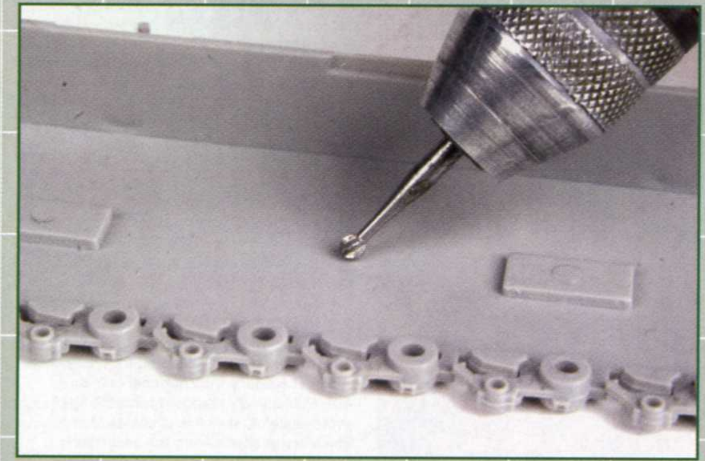


In this case we have chosen to 'shoot-up' the sponson of an LVT-2 Amtrac. This technique works for vehicles made from either steel or aluminium.

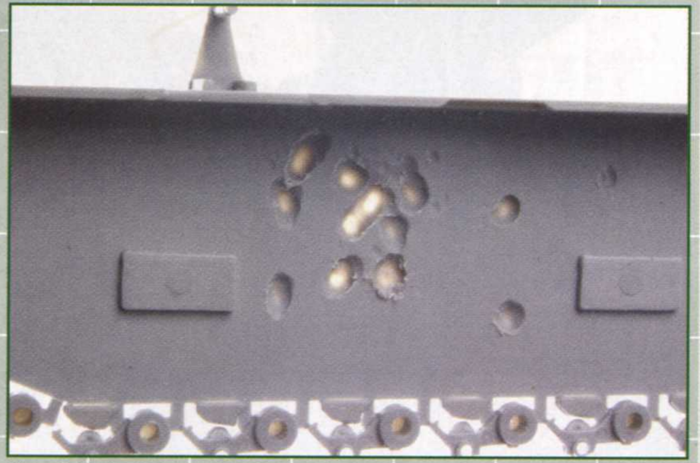
An essential tool for adding the battle damage is a mini-drill, either mains powered or cordless.



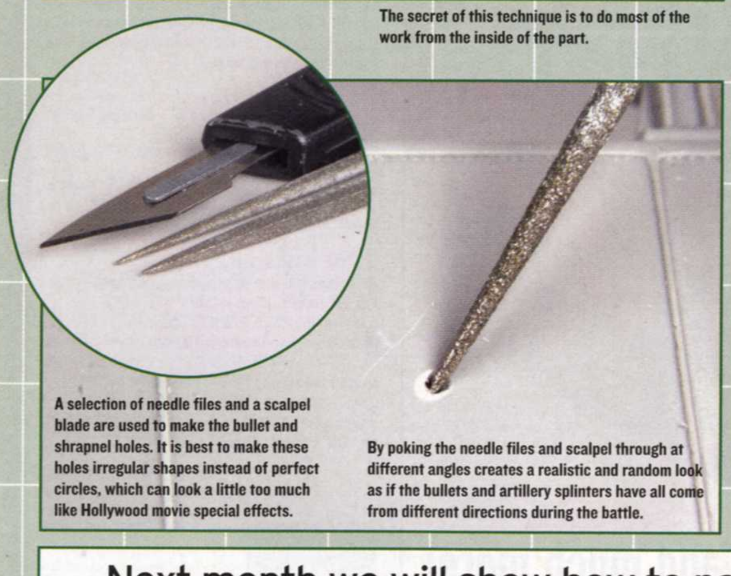
Another essential item is a round-headed jeweller's burr. These come in various sizes. For this demo the largest diameter burr has been selected.



The secret of this technique is to do most of the work from the inside of the part.

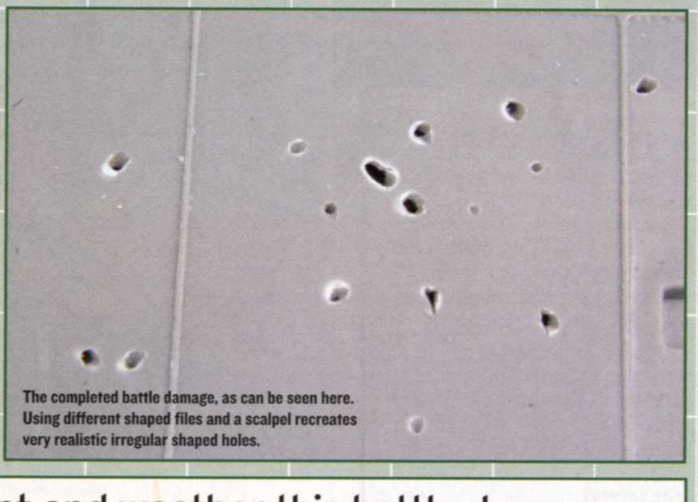


When grinding the plastic away from the inside, it is best to go gently at first and constantly check the depth of the gouges by holding the part up to the light. When the plastic has become translucent it's time to stop grinding.



A selection of needle files and a scalpel blade are used to make the bullet and shrapnel holes. It is best to make these holes irregular shapes instead of perfect circles, which can look a little too much like Hollywood movie special effects.

By poking the needle files and scalpel through at different angles creates a realistic and random look as if the bullets and artillery splinters have all come from different directions during the battle.



The completed battle damage, as can be seen here. Using different shaped files and a scalpel recreates very realistic irregular shaped holes.

Next month we will show how to paint and weather this battle damage.

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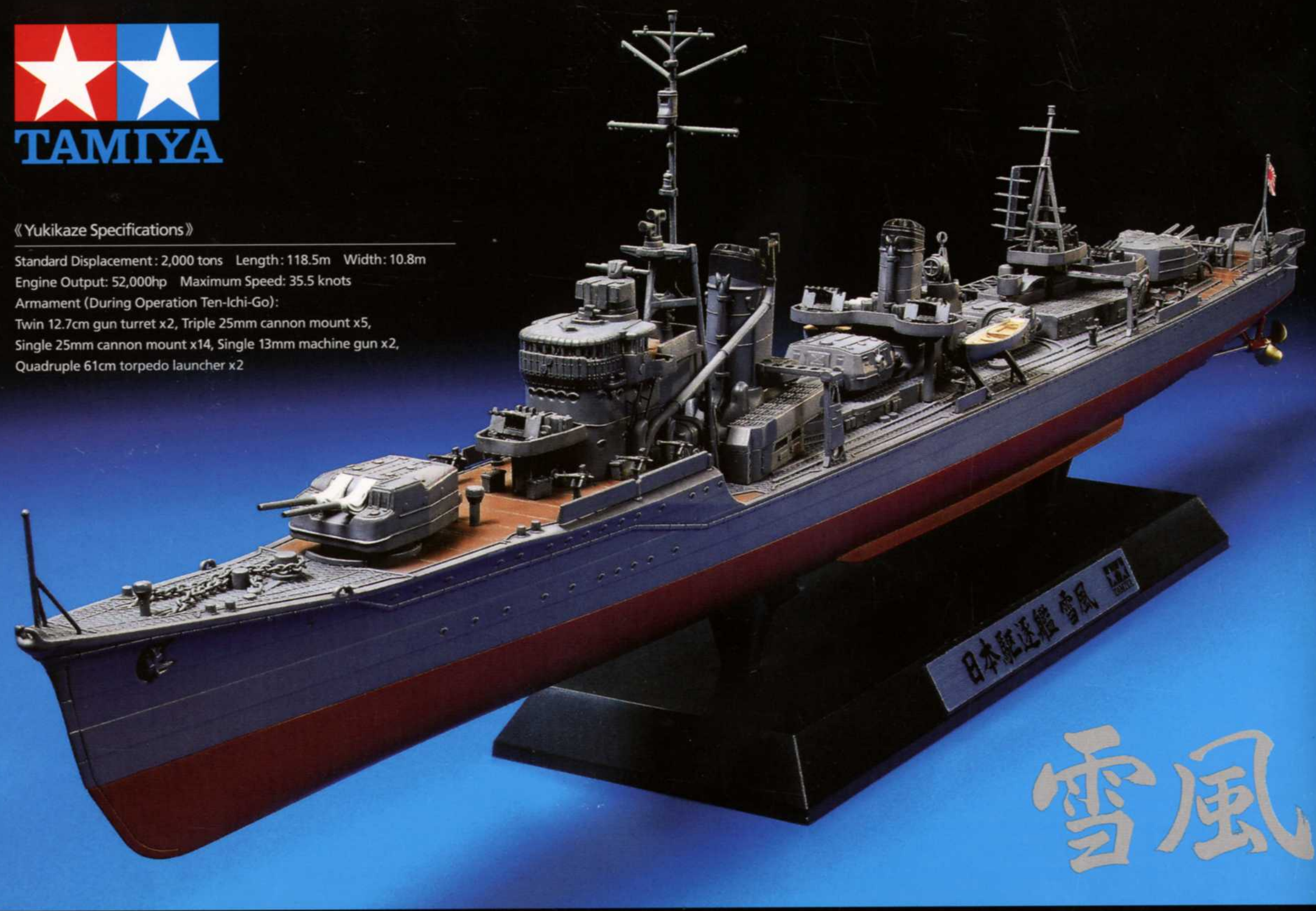


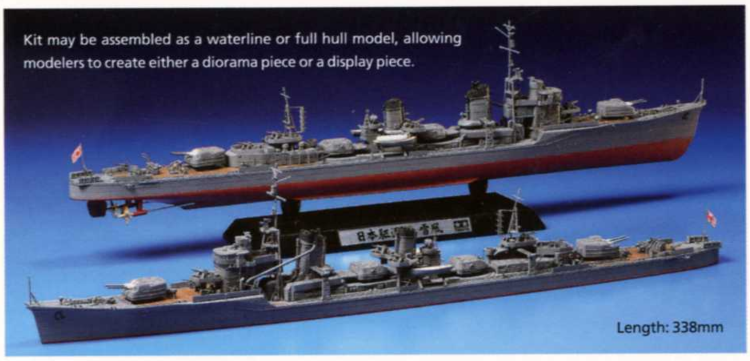
《Yukikaze Specifications》

Standard Displacement: 2,000 tons Length: 118.5m Width: 10.8m
Engine Output: 52,000hp Maximum Speed: 35.5 knots
Armament (During Operation Ten-Ichi-Go):
Twin 12.7cm gun turret x2, Triple 25mm cannon mount x5,
Single 25mm cannon mount x14, Single 13mm machine gun x2,
Quadruple 61cm torpedo launcher x2

Are You Feeling Lucky?

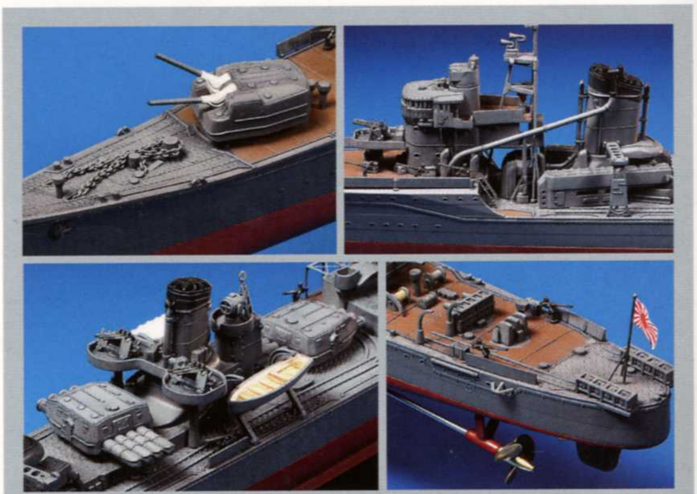
1/350 Japanese Navy Destroyer Yukikaze Item 78020

The Yukikaze was called the "Lucky Destroyer" since it took part in numerous battles in the Pacific and somehow always returned to port unscathed. Tamiya has endeavored to produce the definitive model of this popular Japanese Navy warship by using the latest molding technologies and incorporating new design ideas. This model depicts the Yukikaze as she appeared during Operation Ten-Ichi-Go in April 1945, when she escorted the battleship Yamato on her final sortie to Okinawa. The beautiful lines of the destroyer bristled imposingly with anti-aircraft guns and radars that were added in the latter stages of WWII. After surviving the war, she helped repatriate more than 13,000 Japanese personnel before being given as war reparation to the Republic of China, where she continued her distinguished service. Modelers can enjoy assembling this superb model kit while recollecting the miraculous heroics of this famous destroyer.



Kit may be assembled as a waterline or full hull model, allowing modelers to create either a diorama piece or a display piece.

Length: 338mm



Details such as aft mast radar, anti-aircraft gun shields, gangways, and propeller guards are depicted with photo-etched parts for enhanced realism. Main gun barrel parts come in two positions while turrets and torpedo launchers can be rotated even after assembly. Masts and flagpoles are made from durable ABS resin while clear parts are included for bridge windows and searchlight lenses. Sharp details on anti-aircraft guns are created via laser processing.

The completed full hull model, separated from the display base, can be stored in the package.

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